

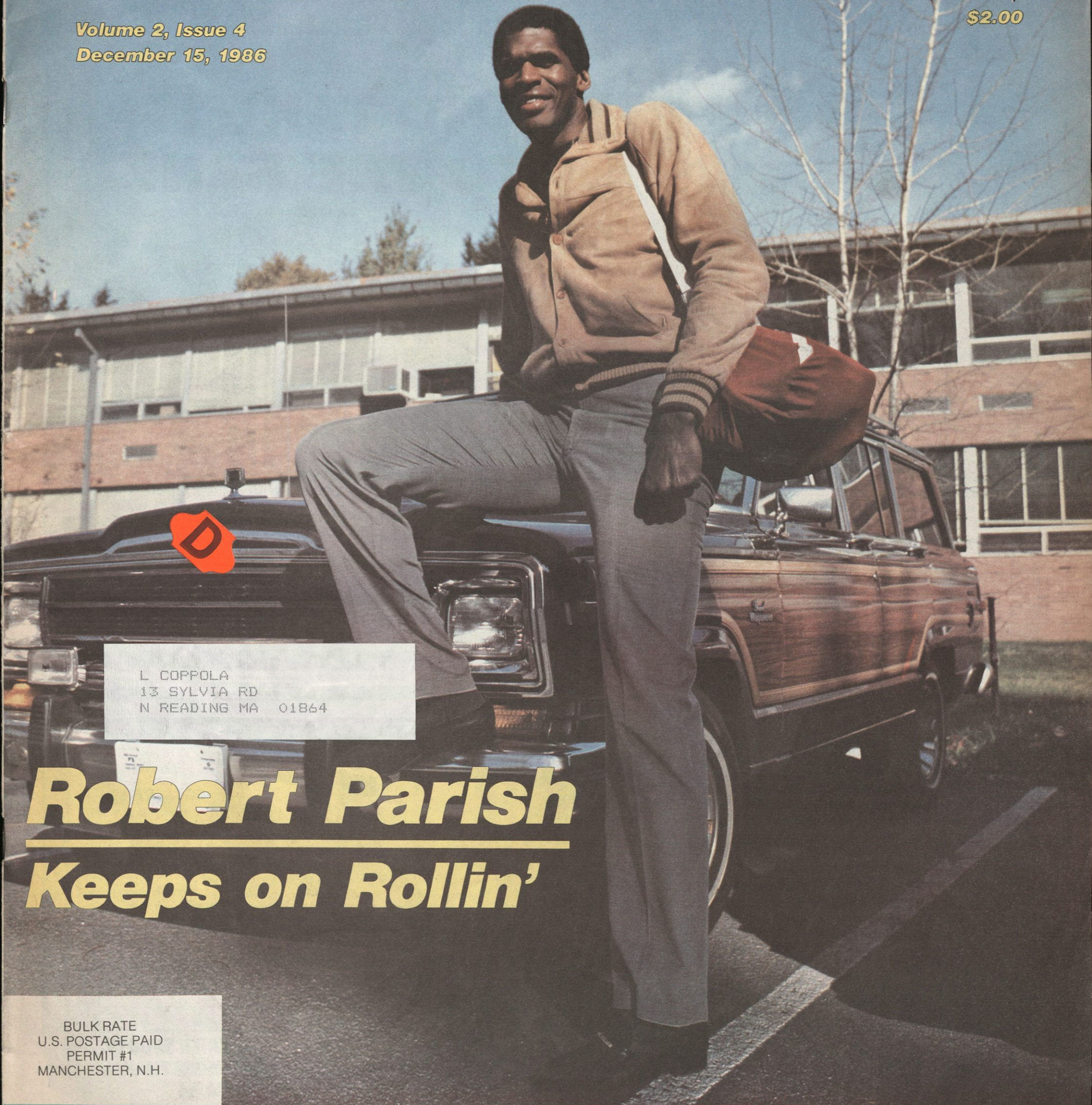
Bill Walton: On the Way Back

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 2, Issue 4
December 15, 1986



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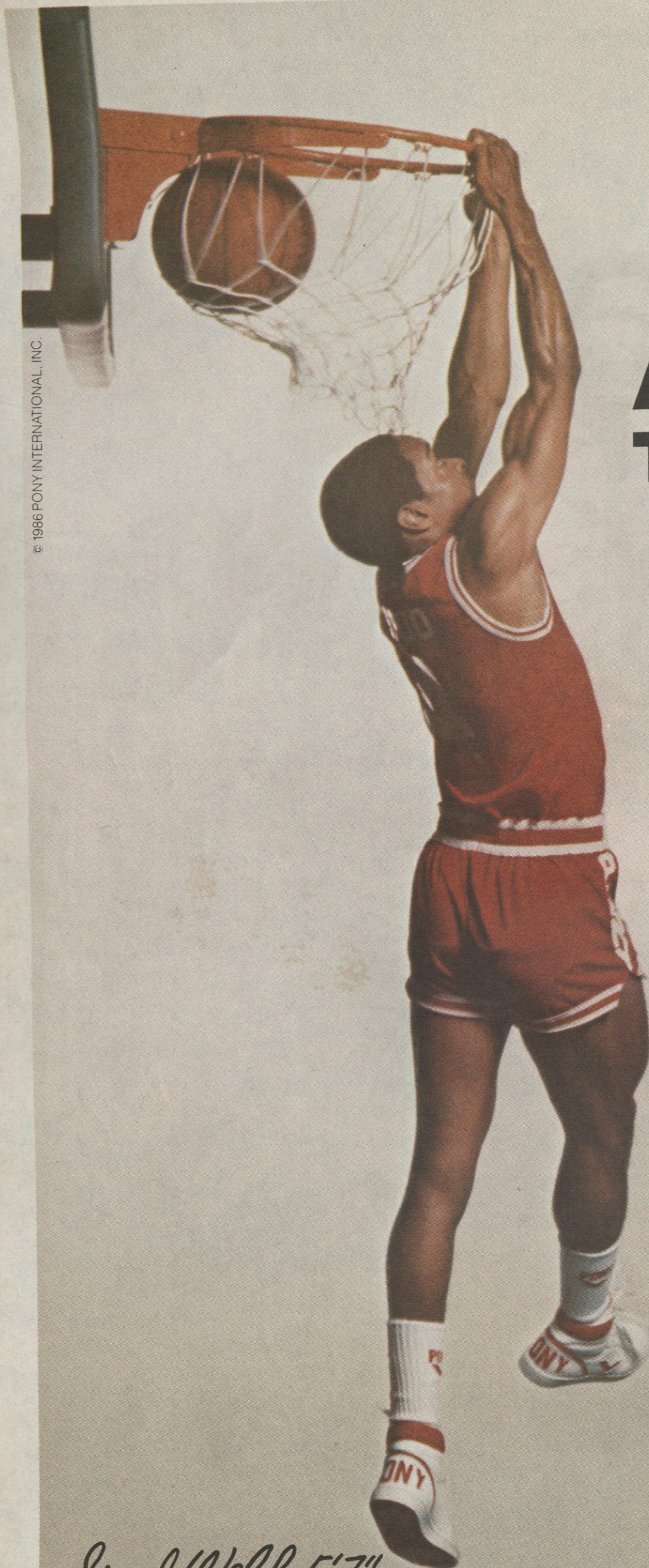


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Robert Parish Keeps on Rollin'

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Chris Ford Rates the Shooting Guards



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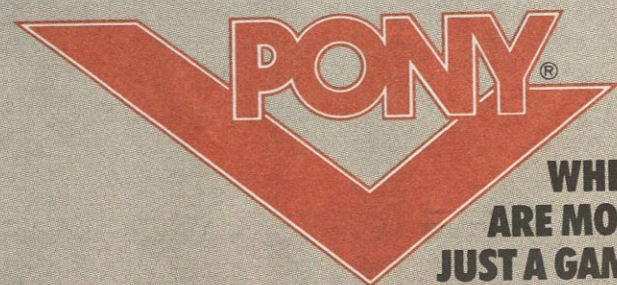
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

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DECEMBER 15, 1986

Cover . . .

Robert Parish, thru thick and thin has been the most constant and durable center for the Celtics in years. Oft times overlooked, Robert has many accomplishments to his credit and his constant contributions to the Celtics keeps rollin' along.

Features . . .

4 Chris Ford Rates The Shooting Guards

The varied talents of today's shooting guards are analyzed and compared by ex-Celtics sharpshooter and current assistant coach, Chris Ford.

8 "The Chief"

In recognition of Robert Parish and his many contributions to the success of today's Celtics. Overlooked by fans around the country, Robert's teammates and coaches know just how valuable he is.

10 Bill Walton — On The Way Back

Follow the day-to-day regimen of Bill Walton's rehabilitation program. With great effort and discipline, Bill's recovery will hopefully be quick.

11 Dennis Johnson

Dennis Johnson chronicles the beginning of the season thru his Celtics Diary.

Departments . . .

- 5 — Ask Red
- 6 — Innerview
- 7 — Celtics Perspective
- 12 — K.C.'s Corner
- 13 — Supreme Court
- 14 — Ed Gillooly
- 15 — Glenn Ordway
- 16 — Celtics Confidential
- 18 — M.L. Carr
- 19 — By the Numbers
- 20 — Game by Game
- 24 — Celtics Classics
- 25 — Celtics Calendar
- 26 — Celtics Greats

BUD LIGHT DAREDEVILS TO PERFORM



The Bud Light Daredevils, one of the most unique slam dunk acts in the country, will perform during halftime at the Boston Celtics game on Tuesday, Dec. 2, and Wednesday, Dec. 10.

The Bud Light Daredevils team includes two brothers, Ty, 26, Guy Cobb, 23, Brandon Kisner, 21, and a fourth member, Tim Lancaster, 23. The act includes an eight-minute slam dunk and acrobatic halftime show highlighted by the "Congo Dunk" and the "Shake Down the Rafter" 'til the Morning After" routines.

During the latter act, Ty springs from a mini-trampoline with a basketball in his hands. Several feet over the rim, he performs a 360-degree flip and slams the ball through the basket. The "Congo Dunk" features three of the team members performing staggered flips

in front of the rim, with the fourth member actually dunking the ball.

All four members of the Bud Light Daredevils began their gymnastics training at an early age, rapidly progressing up through the ranks as high school and college cheerleaders.

In five years, the group has performed in more than 193 cities nationwide in front of one million fans nationwide. This includes appearances at 112 different schools and for every National Basketball Association team, except for Seattle. The Bud Light Daredevils have gone international with over 25 appearances in Europe and Japan, where they performed during professional basketball games.

The team is scheduled to perform this year during NCAA and NAIA basketball games as well as at NBA and Continental Basketball Association games.

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Chris Ford Rates The Shooting Guards

Celtic Assistant Coach Chris Ford played ten distinguished seasons in the National Basketball Association after three strong seasons at Villanova. In both phases of his career, Ford played a role; he was the floor leader at Villanova and helped take the team (with Howard Porter) to the NCAA final in 1972 against Sidney Wicks and UCLA. His game at the professional level was more disciplined; his best scoring average was 15.4 on the bad 1978-79 Celtic team, but his contributions are more clearly understood within team performance. The Pistons, who he played with from 1972-77, made the playoffs four times and then fell to the bottom of the league after he was traded, a disassembled group of individual talent gone astray. In Boston, the Celtics, after Larry Bird arrived, won a championship and Ford made key contributions at the off-guard spot. He was a very consistent, mature player even in college and he brings insight into the subject of the role of off-guard in the modern game.

"I think the 'off-guard' should be classified as a shooting guard," Ford stated in an interview last week, "because most coaches think of that position with those expectations. But I'm not sure I agree. Because what's more important? A player who can only shoot the ball from that spot, or an 'OK' shooter who can also defend, handle the ball, pass and do all things effectively? I tell young players: if you're 6-8 and a center in high school, you had better think about developing all your skills if you hope to go farther. The culmination is at the professional level. The best players can do it all."

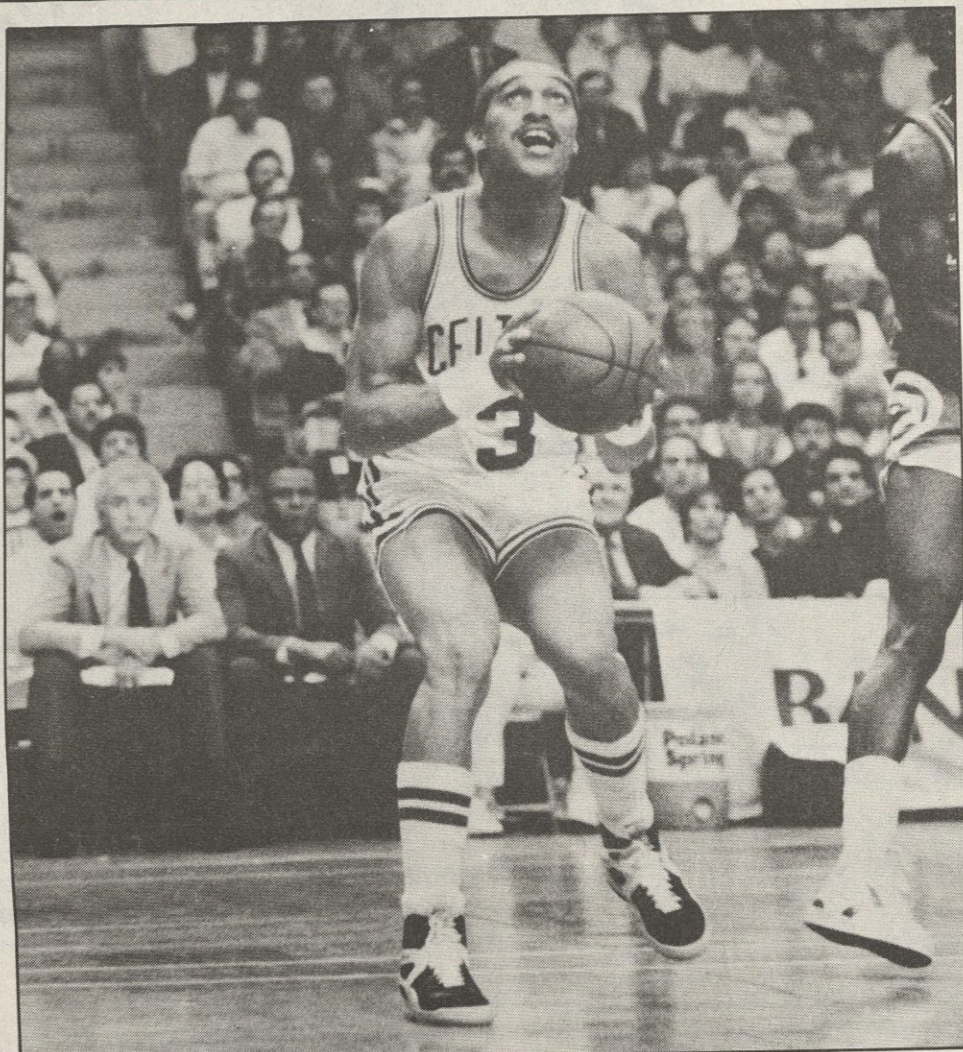
"I don't think there are enough true point guards, so the ball-handling responsibilities are spread around. I think Dennis (Johnson) is the best in the game, but he handles the ball a great deal in our offense."

Ford couldn't be drawn into specific ratings, but he did offer a general hierarchy and comments about some of the players at this position.

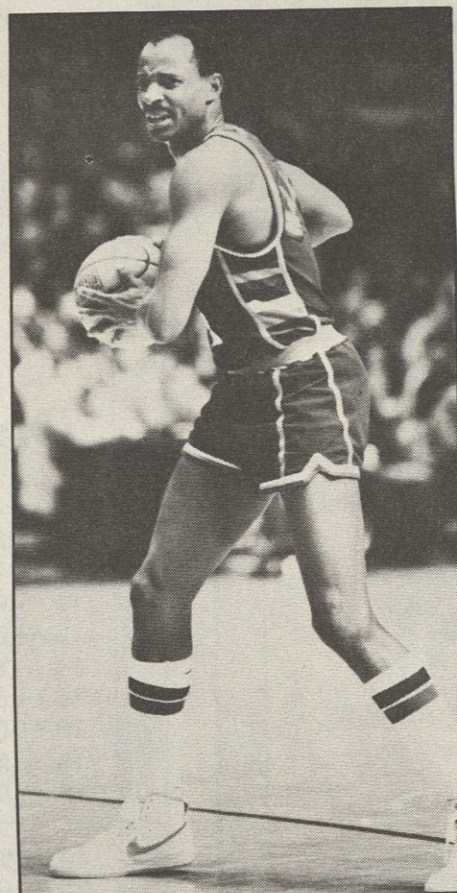
1. **Dennis Johnson**, Boston/ **Sidney Moncrief**, Milwaukee/**Michael Jordan**, Chicago. These are the three best in the league, according to Ford. "They play the entire game, but I am reluctant to even classify them as 'off-guards,' or certainly limit them to shooters. Sidney can score 20 points a game, and Jordan even more than that. But Moncrief takes the other team's best offensive threat. If Jordan isn't as effective on defense as Dennis or Moncrief, his contribution to the team is comparable because he is so dominant on offense. And his defense is good."

"On the Celtics, Dennis handles the ball a great deal; defensively, Danny Ainge plays the quick guard and that often is the point guard. Dennis plays the bigger opponent."

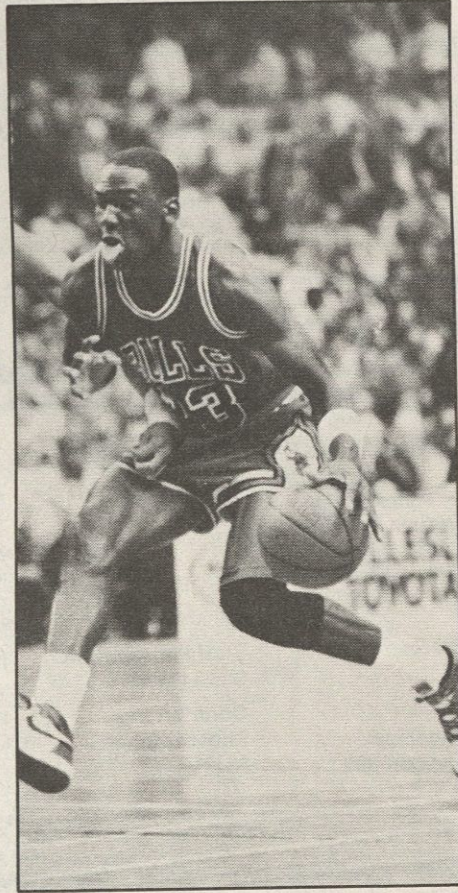
Twenty-Point Scoring Men. "I think one of the most overrated ideas in the sport is labeling players, placing strict boundaries on their roles. Look, there isn't much use in calling a player a One guard, Two guard, etc., if he can't do much else besides what that number classifies him to be able to do. The team isn't going to win anyway. Besides, is he a player or a number?"



Dennis Johnson: One of three best in league.



Sidney Moncrief: plays the total game.



Michael Jordan: Explosive.

Most teams would like their shooting guard to get 20 points a game ideally. For instance, **John Long** of Indiana might be

the perfect man for Jack Ramsay's system in Indiana. But—there aren't that many excellent point guards around, so

it's difficult to do. The job of ball-handling gets spread around.

"And there are two types of scorers. One type is a pure shooter. The other is a 'scorer'; he'll get seven field goals, some offensive rebounds and fast breaks, and free throws."

Jeff Malone, Washington. He'll get twenty points and he's a scorer. "He's the two-guard who'll get twenty points. But he's not a playmaker."

Rolando Blackman, Dallas. "A scorer, but I haven't seen the all-around skills of the top group."

Mitchell Wiggins, Houston. "They're hoping he can develop all-around skills and he has scoring potential, but he's not a complete player, either."

Darrell Griffith, Utah/ **Byron Scott**, Lakers/ **Walter Davis**, Phoenix.

All three are essentially scorers. "Davis is probably the most explosive of the players grouped here, and they moved him from forward to guard with Dennis Johnson in 1982-83. Walter's a good scorer, but defensively, he's always had difficulties here."

"When the Suns moved Walter from forward to guard," observed Dennis Johnson once, "he always appeared to be out of place, out of synch."

Derek Smith, Sacramento. "I haven't seen Derek too much because most of his games are in the Western Conference (and we play those teams only two times a season). But he's a big, strong player who'll get you twenty points."

"The trouble with this approach, especially when you're dealing with a young player like Smith, is if you tell them you want them to score twenty points a game, they have a tendency to not work quite as hard on other parts of the game."

Jim Paxson of Portland probably exemplified the type of player who fits into an off-guard slot, if the total game was taken into consideration. Paxson doesn't have great talent, although he's very good.

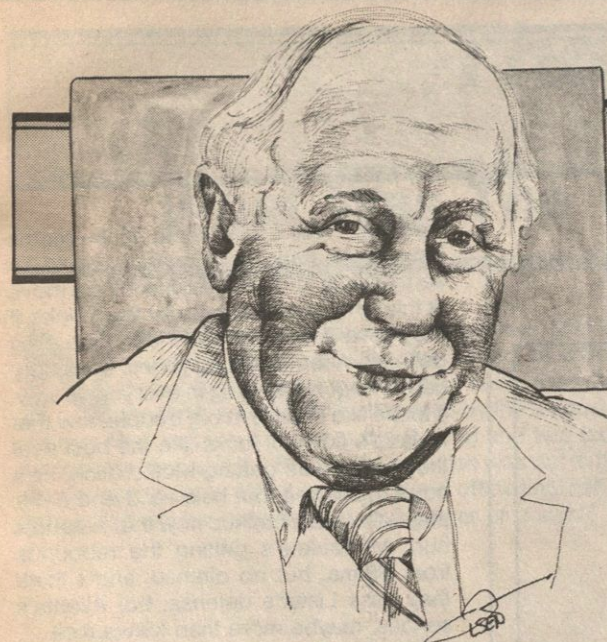
"But he moves very well without the ball, uses picks superbly, and knows how to free himself for uncontested shots by using his teammates effectively."

"It's a strange thing about the Celtics," commented Ray Melchiorre last week after the team acquired Andre Turner. "We may not start a trend. But if we get it to work, other teams will soon follow suit. We had Kevin McHale and Robert Parish playing together five years ago. Now everybody has Twin Towers."

So how do the Celtics play on offense—utilizing the Twin Towers, the alternating responsibilities among Ainge and Ford's top-rated off-guard Johnson?

"We have a history in a sense, of spreading the responsibility around. When I played, we had Tiny Archibald, who was really the consummate point guard. But after he left, we have gone without that specific type of player. In 1983-84, Gerald Henderson played with Dennis and they gave us speed, quickness and defense. Now with Danny, it's continued."

"Larry Bird is the best passer on the team, so that we have another dimension in the offense. We just, well, play the game with all five players. But, for the sake of discussion, I'd think that Johnson fits the off-guard position extremely well."



Ask Red Auerbach

Still, the same rule applies. Rule No. 6, Section 6 in the NBA Rule Book states that that situation is resolved with a jump ball.

QUESTION: I understand that the NBA's draft lottery has changed. How will it be done this year?
James Spencer, Boston, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: There has been a change in the lottery system this year from the way it has worked the first two years. Now, the team that has the worst record in the league can do no worse than get the 4th pick overall. Here's how it will work. At the end of the season, as in the past two years, the 7 worst teams will go through a lottery to determine the order of selection. This year, however, they will be picking to determine only the first three positions, not all seven as before. After the first three positions are determined by lottery, the remaining teams will select in the order that they ordinarily would have, with the teams placed according to their records. This way, the worst teams will get a shot at the first three positions, but they'll also avoid being stuck too far down the line by bad luck. It's a good change in the system, one that I definitely approve of.

QUESTION: I've heard that I can buy stock in the Boston Celtics. How can I go about trying to get some? I think it's a good investment, because the Celtics always produce winners.

James Eifert, Jr., Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

RED'S ANSWER: First, thanks for the kind words. You will, in fact, be able to buy limited partnership units in the Celtics in the very near future. For further information about purchasing stock, you should contact the investment firm of Smith Barney. They can give you all the information.

QUESTION: Since Rick Carlisle did so well in the pre-season games, why isn't he playing more now, especially with the injuries to Ainge and Wedman?
Keith Hutchinson, Newton, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: As I've said before in this column, I don't want to use this forum to ever question coaching decisions. In my opinion, K.C. Jones, Jim Rodgers and Chris Ford constitute the best coaching staff in the league, and I think that one of K.C.'s greatest strengths is as a bench coach. I've said this before: I think that K.C. Jones does a better job of substituting players and managing his team on the bench than any coach in the league. As far as Rick Carlisle is concerned, we all agree that Rick has proven himself a consistently productive professional player, a guy who is dependable and won't make many mistakes. I'm pleased with his development as a player. Still, his playing time is decided by K.C., not me, and I know that Rick will get his chances to play as the season wears on. Remember—only five of the twelve players on the team can be on the court at any given time, so there will always be some players frustrated by inaction. That was as true in my coaching years as it is now.

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Is it just me or do you think the referees are getting worse?

Thomas Hall, Saugus, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: First of all, let me say that I believe that NBA officials have the most difficult job of any officials in any sport. The game is so fast-moving, the calls so spontaneous and the players so incredibly physically talented that the refs have to be good just to get by. No, I don't think that the NBA referees are getting worse; I just think that it's a matter of perspective. With the players jumping higher, shooting better and running faster than ever before, the refs just can't see everything that goes on. In general, I think that they do a good job within those limitations.

QUESTION: Why is the NBA logo on the Celtics uniforms this year?

Glenn C. Gardner, Milton, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: I'm sure you realize that the NBA logo you've noticed isn't just on our uniforms but on the uniforms of every team in the league. This is all part of a marketing strategy developed by NBA Properties, the licensing and souvenir marketing arm of the league office. They are creating what they call "NBA Authentics," exact replicas of each uniform which the public can buy. As I understand it, the concept is that the logo on the uniforms will create consistency; as well, for the first time, all the uniforms are being made by the same manufacturer.

QUESTION: Since the NBA honors each year's best sixth man, why isn't there a position on the All-Star ballot for a sixth man?

Lois Byrd, Arlington, Ma.

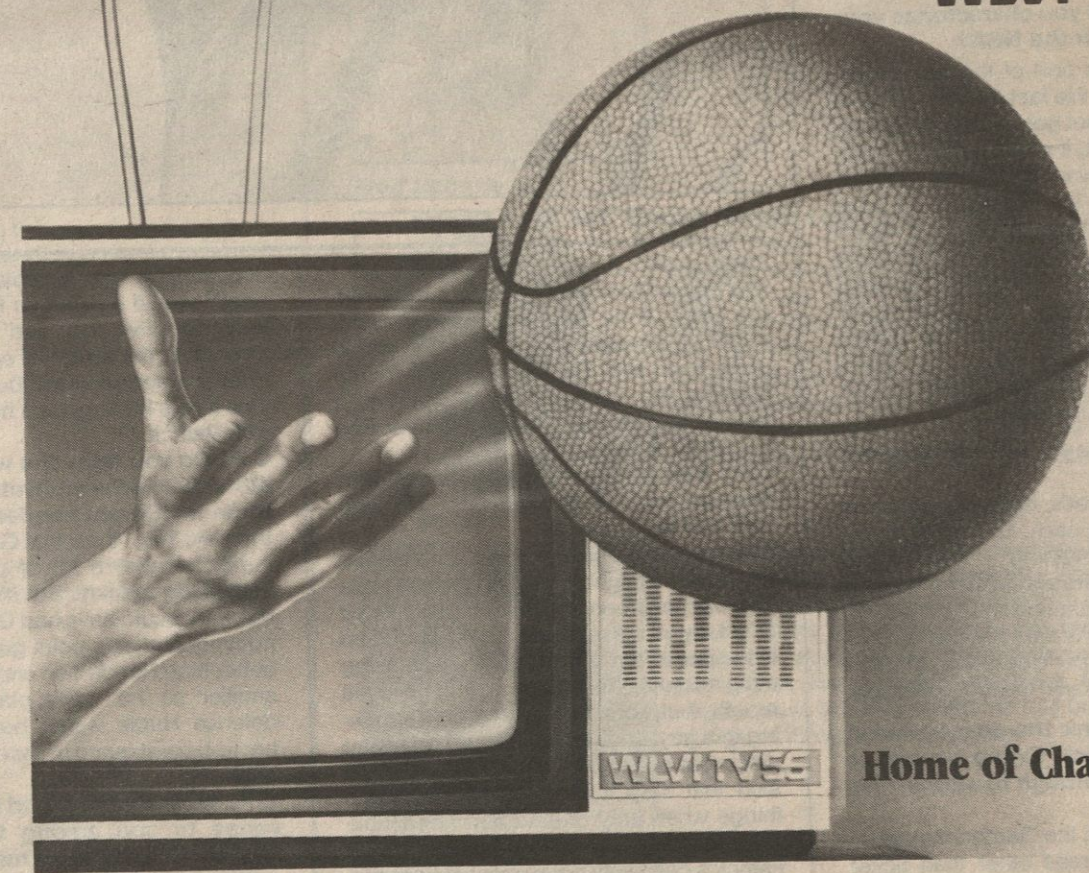
RED'S ANSWER: That's a good question, and I don't really know the answer to it. For years now, the policy has been for the fans to vote the starting five, by position, into the All-Star Game, and then to have the coaches select the remaining members of the team. I would assume that the objective of this system is to get the twelve best players in each conference into the All-Star Game; if the best sixth man is also one of the best twelve players, he should make the team.

QUESTION: Fred Roberts' shot balanced and stayed on the rim in the recent New Jersey game. What is the rule on what happens?

Theresa Langley, Woburn, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: There is a rule which applies to the situation that occurred in our recent New Jersey game, although I must admit I've never seen that exact scenario ever before. In that game, Fred Roberts took a shot which bounced around the rim and then, incredibly, balanced on the flat part of the rim between the rim and the backboard. I've seen shots get lodged between the rim and backboard many times before, but never just balance there.

When the Celtics are away... they're at home on 56 WLVI



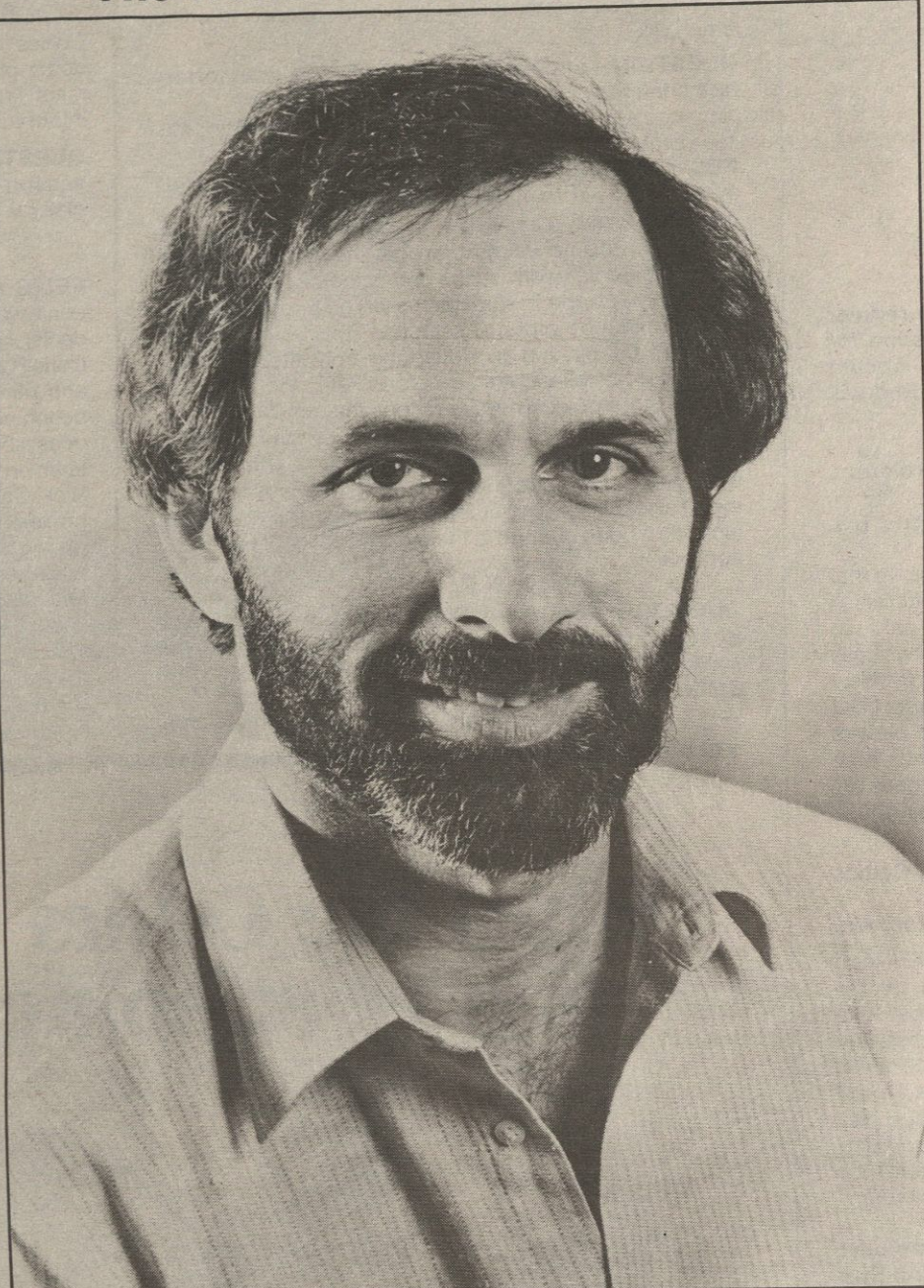
Home of Champions!



Innerview

Pete Vecsey

The Howard Cosell of Basketball



Pete Vecsey: The Fan's Choice.

Fans around the country are familiar with Pete Vecsey as the most controversial basketball writer in the country, featured in the New York Post. Pete is completely self taught as a journalist, apprenticing at the Daily News while covering the ABA. He has covered Basketball at the News for fourteen years and at the Post for the last ten. Celtics Pride was able to interview Pete while he was vacationing in Phoenix.

C.P.: What players, past or present supply you with the best quotes or stories?

Vecsey: You want me to reveal my sources? (laughs) Well you know Julius Erving was the best man at my wedding, and we're great friends, but I'll tell you the truth, all players are really good, people don't believe me when I tell them that, but most players bend over backwards in basketball to help you, I couldn't think of ten uncooperative players in my whole career.

C.P.: Even players you have slammed in the paper the day before?

Vecsey: Yeah, you know, they'll come back at me, but that will open up the dialogue, it's give and take, but sometimes it's a little rough. I've felt that tension in the locker room many times, but if you just talk to the players and give them a chance to get back at you it really works out. Basketball players are really great gentlemen. I don't know what it's like now in other sports, because I never really covered them in depth, baseball was a drag for the most part, Football I never really did figure out who was who once the uniforms come off, I had no idea what was going on, and if you want me to quit, all you have to do is send me to a Hockey game, it's like another language to me.

C.P.: How would you characterize your relationship with the NBA?

Vecsey: Well it's sort of the same thing... They respect the fact that I'm trying to tell the truth, I'm not gonna spare anybody and they like that, it might be them today and they won't want to read it, but they also know that I'm going to go after somebody else if I feel the need and they'll love reading that. It's like Chris Mullin told me the other day, when he got to the pros he would browse the column reading only the names in bold print and if his name's not in there he can relax. And that's basically what they all say, if their name's not in it they can all relax.

C.P.: I guess they'd have to look for nicknames too.

Vecsey: Yeah that's right, it's amazing how those names stick, Chris told me he remembered something I had written about him four years ago while he was still in college, it was just one line, I called him "poetry in place." He said a friend told him I was doggin' him but Chris kind of liked it and I didn't necessarily mean it negatively.

C.P.: Do you think the season ticket sales when Patrick Ewing became a Knick is strong enough to support his amazing salary?

Vecsey: First of all, the Garden makes so much money in areas other than ticket

sales, with T.V. and other events, that I don't think there's any problem at all with the salary, if he were somewhere else it might be a problem. You've got to win to draw, even with his presence they're not drawing too well. If they're winning, it doesn't matter if you've got Ewing or Ron Carnivale at center.

C.P.: A lot of writers have inferred that Ewings been lacksadaisical do you feel the same way?

Vecsey: No I don't, I haven't mentioned that at all in my column, you know Hubie (Brown) has been knocking him a little bit originally off the record but it still ended up in the paper, and I told him he was making a big mistake, that he should just keep his mouth shut, I don't know why he's knocking this guy, and Hubie went off on a long discourse on what Patrick couldn't do, so I said that they must have known these things when they drafted him and Hubie said they didn't, but shouldn't they have? Patrick's definitely got some weaknesses,

but it's just unbelievable to me that a coach would knock him for it. Patrick's a very sensitive kid and he may have listened to the advice of some people not to over extend himself but that's a good idea if he's hurting, but I have no problem with Patrick.

C.P.: Do you think the win-at-all-costs attitude was the motivation behind the trade for Gerald Henderson?

Vecsey: Yes, I think that Garden Management is under a lot of pressure to do something quickly. But it's like I pointed out, they could have had Geoff Huston for nothing, and as a point guard I think he's better than Henderson and Sparrow. He's smaller so he won't play the kind of defense Hubie wants but they need a backup point guard in case Sparrow goes down.

C.P.: What trades would seem to make sense to you among teams in the Eastern Division to increase their competitiveness against the Celtics?

Vecsey: Well I think most of the teams have made their key moves, it would be very difficult for a team to make a big move at this time, except maybe for the Knicks, if they get a Drexler, or a World B. Free, they definitely need a scoring guard. The salary cap is what is standing in everyone's way. It looks like Philly's in big trouble now that Ruland's down, it looks like the best deal they made was getting McCormick, he's not a racehorse, but he's solid and 6-11, they will need a backup now that Ruland's hurt. Milwaukee's getting the rebounds from Sikma, but no offense, and I think they miss Lister's defense, but Atlanta's serious, maybe more than Milwaukee... they're younger, stronger and deeper.

C.P.: What coaches do you think are starting off this season in trouble?

Vecsey: Maybe Chuck Daly, people expect a lot from that team, and they're struggling a lot... Clippers are always in trouble, which is a shame because Don Chaney's a great guy, maybe the Nets, because this is the last year of Wohl's gauranted contract, they're the worst team in the league right now.

C.P.: Conversely, who do you think the next great coaches are going to be?

Vecsey: Well Matt Goukas did a great job last year, he rose above a lot of problems, what with Toney and Malone, switching Julius to the backcourt, he wasn't afraid to experiment, but I think he's got to be a little tougher he should have clamped down on Sedale Threatt, Sedale was just total individualistic, nobody wanted to play with him, they wanted to know if he'd ever pass to them. Matt should have jerked him out of the games. I like Bernie Bickerstaff, he's doing as well as he can do under the circumstances. Obviously, Mike Fratello once he was able to get out from under the Hubie-clone stigma, and he decided he wasn't going to play the same style as Hubie and started the Hawk's running last year, he learned that you gotta go with what you got.

C.P.: Could you give us a few of your all-time favorite nicknames for players, coaches, owners?

Vecsey: Well there've been a few, but I think Spencer Deadwood (Spencer Haywood), Bill Muscledhead (Bill Musselman), and Deep Septank (Ted Stepien) were pretty good. By the way, both Bill and Ted asked me to stop using my nicknames, very nicely, so I did and consequently, we became pretty good friends which was how I found out that they were going to pick John Bagley with their first pick. When I printed that, everyone said no way, but as it turned out, they did, my story was right and it left everyone scratching their heads trying to figure out how I knew.

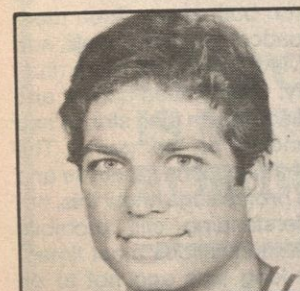
C.P.: Do you feel another good, competent league would be a positive step in basketball today?

Vecsey: I'm not so sure, certainly the ABA proved you could get the talent, but it would be difficult for a new league to sign the big guys. It's just about impossible, because nowadays you're competing against Europe too. I like the idea of the 6-4 and under league, it's a great idea and could produce some exciting ball.

The Celtics Perspective

What Was The Worst Call You've Experienced as a Player

National Basketball Association players and coaches are understandably cautious when the subject of officiating comes up for discussion. Impulsive comments about the hustling men who patrol the NBA action will result in fines by the league. Yet, with the ejection of Larry Bird last week (against the Bucks) and two technicals on the team against the Nets and the Bucks, the question was put to the Celtic players who did choose to reply. What was the worst officiating call, or most memorable one, which you've experienced as a player or coach?



Jerry Sichting

Jerry Sichting: When I was with Indiana, Ricky Mahorn set a pick and rolled his shoulders, knocking me down. The referees whistled the play and called me for the foul. That's just one that comes to mind. There have been so many I can't even begin to recall them all.



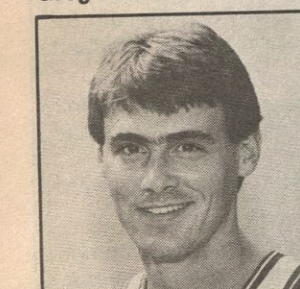
Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale: I've seen so many good and bad calls that one doesn't stick out in my mind.



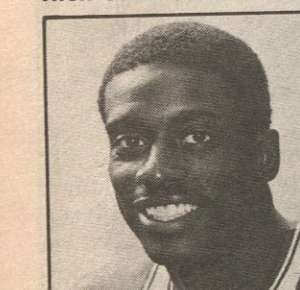
Greg Kite

Greg Kite: It's not really something I like to comment on. There were a series of them during some of the games in the championship series against Houston last year.



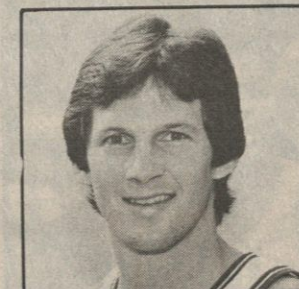
Rick Carlisle

Rick Carlisle: The worst officiating I've seen in my career in this league comes at our practices when our assistant coaches, Chris Ford and Jimmy Rodgers work the scrimmages.



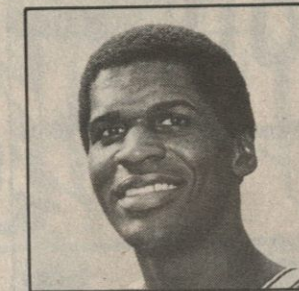
Sam Vincent

Sam Vincent: There was a call against me in seventh grade. A charge call went against me in a closely contested game.



Scott Wedman

Scott Wedman: It's hard to remember all of them. But I do recall the 1984 playoffs, when James Worthy didn't have to dribble from halfcourt when he went up for his countless slam dunks. But on the whole, I think the officials do a very good job. This is the fastest moving sport, the one with the closest contact. It's the most difficult game in the world to officiate.



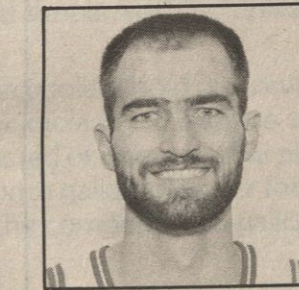
Robert Parish

Robert Parish: I can definitely remember. Last season against Dallas, we were in a one-point game and Brad Davis drove the lane. I went up and got a clean block. But they called a foul. There's nothing you can say. Nothing you can do.



Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge: Last season in the playoffs against Atlanta. Scott Hastings and I were fighting for a rebound, and he clearly knocked me down (the tapes confirmed this). He started after me, to fight; I began defending myself, (scissors) kicking him as he charged me. I was ejected and fined by the league. But the league then waived the fine.



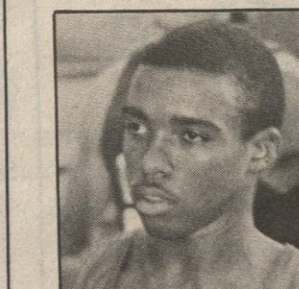
Fred Roberts

Fred Roberts: I can't really comment. But when I played in Italy, the officials didn't seem to understand the inside game at all and there were a series of terrible calls all season.



K.C. Jones

K.C. Jones: I definitely remember one made by Richie Powers when I was coaching in Washington. He was standing at a corner where the halfcourt and side lines meet. He was clearly positioned inbounds. The ball got away from one of the opposing team's players, and hit him. Our player picked the ball up, and went downcourt for a layup. But Richie whistled the play dead: he claimed he was standing out of bounds. There was nothing to say, though he was clearly inbounds and I had seen him standing there. That was Richie.



Andre Turner

Andre Turner: The worst call I can remember happened when I was a senior at Memphis State and we were playing Virginia Tech. We were losing in a two-point game, and Del Curry (of Virginia Tech) was out front dribbling. I reached in and deflected the dribble and headed toward the basket. He retaliated, grabbing my arm, and the whistle blew. But they called the foul on me—after Curry had gone through with his grab.



Robert Parish

By Bob Schron

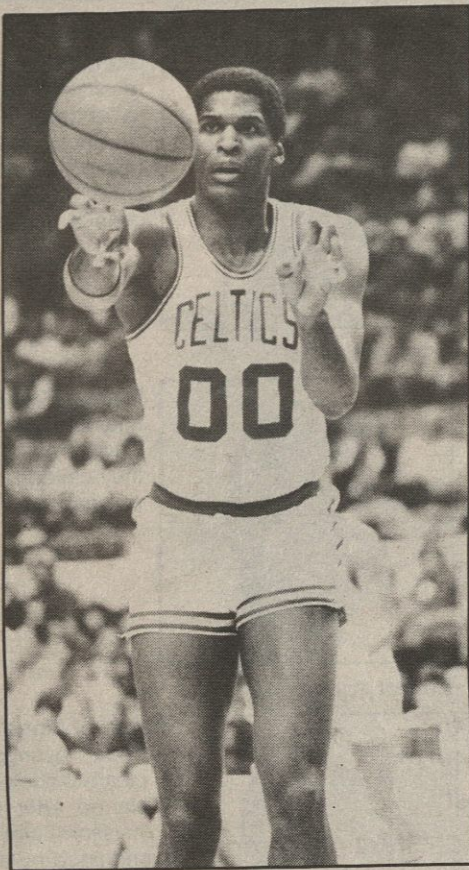
Robert Parish is setting a pick on the right side of lane and he's watching teammate Dennis Johnson as the guard warily dribbles across the top of the foul circle, left to right. Suddenly Johnson, after brushing his defender against Parish's lean powerful body, picks up his dribble.

Parish, in synchronic motion, reverses direction off a reverse pivot, and heads for the basket, the perfect pick and roll play. Johnson lofts a pass to the basket, hoop-level high and Parish flies through the air, his seven-foot figure suspended in mid-flight. He guides the ball in gently, catching the ball in air and dropping it in the basket in one motion. It is a practice episode; paradoxically, the silence which filled the gym after this move rivals the roar of the multitudes in the arena. Professional athletes play their hardest, their best, when the respect of their peers is on the line. In the boisterous, joke-characterized Celtic practice, it takes an outstanding play to produce a quiet interlude.

Robert L. Parish, starting center of the Boston Celtics, team member on three National Basketball Association championships and team member on six consecutive Eastern Conference All-Star teams. To conclude, for the moment, his all too brief resume of official honors, Parish was *The Sporting News* First Team All-American in 1976 and later, All NBA Second Team in 1982.

Parish constructs an identity that defies easy analysis. With his teammates and friends, this is the most generous of spirits. To media, frequently, he is difficult to understand. "I glower," he says, "or I am

"The Chief" Keeps Rollin'



"My game has improved over the years."



"The Chief's" not easy to know.

expressionless. I don't think these images make (me) easy to know.

"But that's OK."

He is one of the most underrated, unsung superstar players in the game. When all star voting is conducted by the fans in cities around the league, he never wins. Yet, when the coaches add players, he is consistently selected. In championship finals, he is alternately castigated and praised; when Larry Bird was injured late in 1982, Parish in the opinion of many deserved to be the league Most Valuable Player.

After practice, Parish is standing on the side of the court. Tom Carelli of WRKC walks to him, asks relaxedly, "Chief, can I have three questions?" Parish pauses for less than a second, answers, "Two," and winks to a friend. The well-founded humor is understood on both sides. Soon more writers and broadcasters join Carelli, and the mass interview continues. It is a ritual performed daily: writers need quotes and perspectives for details in their stories and their understanding of the game. The athletes think the questions repetitive and often dull. Both professions know this, but the tacit understanding still prohibits meaningful communications most times.

"I learned a long time ago not to be concerned about publicity," Parish says later. "In 1979 when I was with the Warriors, Rick Barry played out his option and there were rumors that I would be the key player on the team (Parish had come off a 17.2 ppg, 217 block, 100 steal, 12.1 rebounds season). But then all the publicity and recognition went to Phil Smith and John Lucas, guards on the team (possibly because Lucas was noteworthy compensation for the Houston Rockets' signing Barry).

"Then I came over to Boston and with Larry here, Tiny Archibald, and others, there was no way I'd receive recognition. You want it—but if you don't get it, you still have to have the incentive to work hard out there."

In retrospect, when the Celtics obtained Parish from the Warriors in an exchange of

Speaking of Robert Parish

General Manager Jan Volk responded to a rumored story that Parish would be traded immediately before last June's draft: "That's just totally ludicrous. Somebody has a great imagination. I hate to respond about possible trades because you do have conversations, but I feel I have to respond in this case because Robert would be concerned. Such a trade has never been discussed. The story is totally without substance."

Teammate **Larry Bird** on Parish's altered role with Bill Walton as backup Center: "I think he's playing as well as he has in the past. The key is that he is more rested when Bill is healthy. Robert realizes his role has changed and he has gone with the flow."

"Robert is even better on the defensive end. He clogs the middle and he is the key to our fast break game."

Celtics Coach **K.C. Jones** on Parish: "Early last season Robert didn't get much attention, but we made a point late in the season and in the playoffs to get him the ball. Robert rebounds, blocks shots, and runs the court, so it's easy to forget his offense sometimes, but I consider him a backbone of the franchise."

Teammate **Kevin McHale**: "Robert Parish is a professional. He's the anchor of our basketball team and I guarantee you he'll play all the tough minutes and situations. There are a few guys on this team you don't worry about. And Robert is one of them."

Bob Ryan in *Celtics Pride*: "I'm starting to think that the first name on the list of most underrated Celtics should be Robert Parish. It looks to me that people aren't going to give him his proper due; he's not Bill Russell and he's not Dave Cowens, but he has contributed mightily to the Celtics success while here."

Teammate **Larry Bird**: "Many nights, he plays like the best center in basketball. When Robert is in the flow from the beginning to end, he takes command out there. He takes the pressure off of everybody."

1st-round draft choices—the C's had two first-rounders that season—they were receiving the ideal player personality.

"I'd take Robert Parish, anytime," Larry Bird observed. "Because in a big game, he's always there."

Asked if he considers himself an unsung player, Parish willingly assents. Asked to define it, "A guy who doesn't seek publicity, a name... the Cedric Maxwells, the Jamaal Wilkes... goes out and gets the job done and does what's asked of him. A player who doesn't get caught up in statistics."

Robert Parish carried the Celtics in 1981-82, the first season this era's Celtics attempted to repeat their NBA title. Bird had been elbowed and had suffered a broken jaw by Harvey Catchings of Milwaukee. Parish, scoring and rebounding from the low post and out on the break, was a serious candidate for MVP. Then teammate Maxwell was asked about his confrontation with Parish in college: both were centers, Maxwell with North Carolina-Charlotte and Parish with Centenary, a school at that time little publicized and on probation in Shreveport, Louisiana.

"We had heard stories about Parish," commented Maxwell, a man with considerable wit. "But we didn't hear enough. Chief scored 50 and had 30 rebounds." Parish standing nearby, smiled, mostly to himself. (Actually, Parish scored 30 with 18 rebounds.) Robert Parish is capable of big numbers; he scored 40 against San Antonio in 1981. He blocked 11 shots in a game, scored 30 with 32 rebounds in another. Last season he pulled down 25 rebounds against Washington. In that 1982 year he teamed with Kevin McHale to originate the Twin Tower concept.

"But I think my game has improved over the years," he says. "I believe I am a better passer. My free throw shooting is better and through experience, my rebounding and defense are improved. I don't have to block every shot. I'll intimidate and accomplish just as much. I know better when to go after rebounds and when I'm unable to get them. I know when to run the floor, how to set players up for certain moves."

His collaboration with Bill Walton last season was high professionalism. The two are friends and they applied personal goals to teamwork; the ideal example, fittingly for the Celtics, was performed in Game 4 of the final series against Houston last June. Parish came into the contest after "I didn't play well" in Game 3. He had shot 3-15 in a 106-104 defeat. "I came out and exerted myself. I just wanted to get started early, from the jump ball, get established early."

"In the big game he's always there" ... Larry Bird.

A meaningful game for Parish, Walton, and the Celts. Throughout the long perilous night, Parish battled the super-athlete Twin Tower model, Akeem Olajuwon and Ralph Sampson. Parish (22 pts, 10 reb, 3 blks) played, within the measured team game, a powerful role throughout the first 45 minutes and Walton finished up, equally strong and influential. The 106-103 road win keyed the 3rd Celtic title of the eighties.

Parish, like Bird, is at pleasurable ease in the sanctity of the locker room, where teammates share a common understanding of the complex pressures of professional basketball. Robert is different—and not indifferent—when he is asked to consider recognition of his play. "I work harder at being co-operative and cordial with the media, due to my wife's influence. But it's never easy. It's never 'Parish will do it.' It's 'Can he do it?' (But) I have a lot of pride and I'll always play hard. Besides, you don't want to get embarrassed out there. Every player I compete against wants to play his best game. I don't think people who don't play the (pro) game will ever see it the same way. The reputation will endure—of me never being a top center. And it's ironic. Because of my facial expression—it looks as if I don't care. But you must maintain your concentration on the floor and this is a way for me to stay aware."

Finally, Parish is asked if he is a "superstar"—and he quickly shrugs his shoulders. "It's an overused term." But with the plethora of talent this team nevertheless has been able to combine the skills of a Bird, McHale, Dennis Johnson, ("Danny Ainge," adds Parish quickly), and Walton into a title-winning unit. Repeating is the logical goal for this great team and it has involved changes over time on the team.

"There have been injuries and so time has been distributed differently. But I think this team has an excellent chance to repeat. This is the first time everybody is really serious about winning again as a group, instead of 4-5 guys."

"We're closer... you pick up on little things, signs."

"If we are 'superstars,' that doesn't change the group goal. We still have roles. Great teams have to have players who play roles. Year in and year out."

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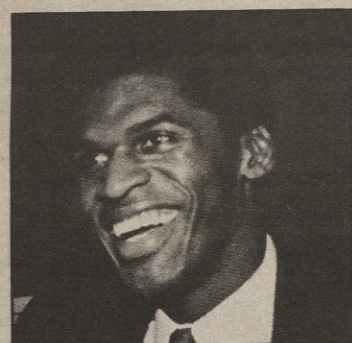
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Self-Portrait



Robert Parish

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: August 30, 1953 in Shreveport, Louisiana

OCCUPATION: Center, The Boston Celtics

GOALS IN BASKETBALL: To be as consistent as I can individually in order to win team championships

GOALS AFTER BASKETBALL: To be as successful after playing as I am now

FAVORITE PERFORMERS: Maze, Stevie Wonder, and B.B. King

IDEAL EVENING: At home

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT YEAR WOULD IT BE AND WHY: I wouldn't. There's no reason to.

I HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO: Get a divorce.

PEOPLE WHO KNEW ME IN HIGH SCHOOL THOUGHT I WAS: A militant

BEST TIME: Celebrating my college graduation for three days

WORST TIME: Recovering from that celebration (of having graduated college)

IDEAL FANTASY: My fantasy has been fulfilled

FAVORITE MEAL: Lasagna

MOST IRRATIONAL FEAR: Punching someone considerably weaker than I am

LAST BOOK READ: *It* by Stephen King

IF I WERE GOING TO THE MOON, I'D TAKE: My family



Bill Walton: On The Way Back

The rehabilitation of Bill Walton's injured right ankle continued through last week. Walton, plagued with injuries to his hand and ankle since the beginning of Training Camp, October 3rd, missed the entire pre-season and opening games of the regular season schedule. He was placed on the Injured Reserve list, effective November 11th, when the Celtics played New Jersey.

"I'm not sure right now when I'll be ready," commented Walton. "Therapy has helped."

When the team left on a road trip, Walton continued therapy at Hellenic College.

Trainer Ray Melchiorre, who with Doctor Thomas Silva supervised the patient rehabilitation of the injury to Kevin McHale's Achilles tendon last February commented, "A player like Bill... it's sometimes hard. You can't be overbearing. But I think it's important to state that you can't trick Mother Nature. If simple rest is called for, then that may be the best method. With a veteran like Bill, I can't say, 'This is the best way to treat the ankle!'"

Melchiorre originally suggested ice and electronic treatment for the inflammation in the right ankle. "But there are some ligament problems, too," the trainer commented November 10th.



Bill's not sure when he'll be ready.

Jayne Kennedy; a Serious Basketball Fan

Seen at Boston Garden

The lovely Jayne Kennedy was a spectator at the Boston Garden when the Celtics played the Milwaukee Bucks, November 12th. Jayne Kennedy-Overton is married to former Dallas Cowboy player Bill Overton, who now produces films with his wife. Kennedy-Overton formerly worked on the NFL Today pre-game show which leads into the National Football League telecasts each week. She continued in sports broadcasting after she ended NFL Today, hosting Sports Legends for Sports Legends Inc. in Philadelphia.

Celtics Pride: After your involvement with the NFL on CBS, have you remained as interested in sports?

Kennedy-Overton: Definitely. Besides working on Sports Legends, I am a serious basketball fan. Although my love is for the Lakers.

CP: What other work have you been doing besides sports?

Kennedy-Overton: I have been just getting back to work. I became pregnant and worked in films until I was seven months into the pregnancy. Then, I took a year off.

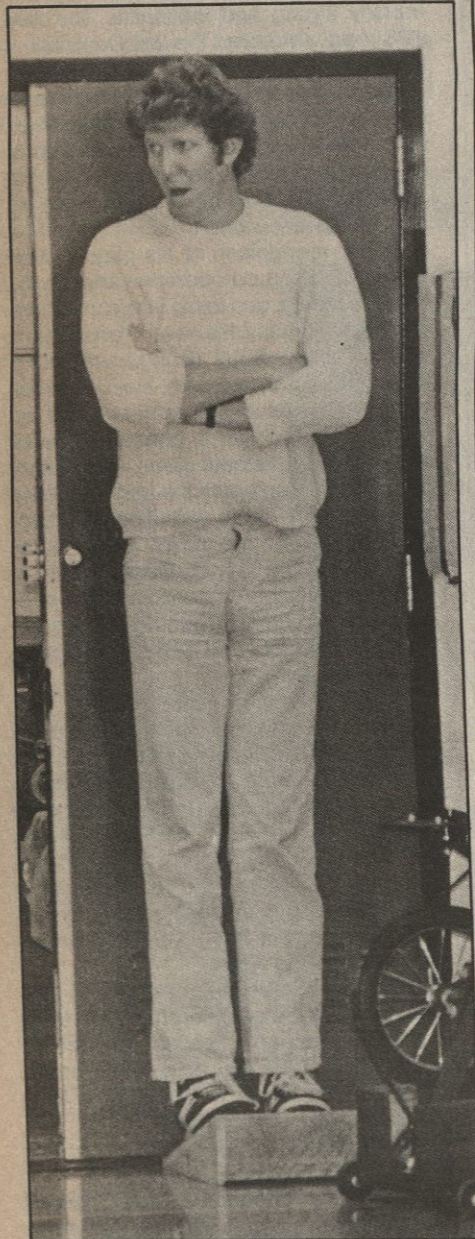
I have worked mostly since then behind the camera (in production). My husband and I bought the rights to a feature film which we hope we'll be able to begin shooting in Rio in April. It is titled, "Swindle." We also have hopes of landing a second project, a one-hour prime time television special, which I am not at liberty to reveal.

CP: Will you be acting?

Kennedy-Overton: Yes, I will be working in "Swindle," but my main professional priority recently has been script development. This allows me to stay at home in Los Angeles with our daughter. She is incredibly special to us.

CP: How has your family life affected your work in sports?

Kennedy-Overton: Same thing: I didn't want to be on the road in sports, so I have not been doing the Sports Legend



Patience and rest are the key.

"The reason we are being extra careful is that the injury is in the same leg where Bill had stress fractures in his foot."

Walton opted to take the electronic treatment but at first did not use ice. After some time he has begun icing the problem area. He injured his ankle while waiting for the broken left pinky finger to heal. He was playing in a fun/controlled scrimmage pickup game and felt problems in the leg. "He became overanxious," said the trainer. "This type of injury to him—a player who taped (his ankles) even for a shootaround."

The injury has officially been classified as a strain of a flexor tendon in the right ankle. "A player may go through a whole gamut of modalities and then finally realize you can't rival rest as the best treatment," said the trainer.

"The question is always being asked of us: 'what can stop us from repeating?' It's injuries and we have had some so there's pressure on everybody. But there are times when everybody realizes that a player needs time (for recovering)."

"A coach may disagree. Then you may need to re-evaluate."



Jayne Kennedy: surprise visitor.

program.

CP: Have you done features on basketball players?

Kennedy-Overton: Two of my favorite features were done with Celtics players. We did a show with Sam Jones, and he captivated me. But undoubtedly, my favorite show was with Bill Russell.

He had declined to do shows previously when Steve Rotfeld of Sports Legends Inc. had contacted him in the past. But when he heard I was doing the show, he agreed to do it because his

daughter, he said, had respect for the work I was doing on television.

Bill liked the fact that I knew my job and he respected the image I was projecting on television as a professional woman. I guess I was a type of role model for his daughter. Although he has not been overt about this, Bill believes in inspiring young people. By helping me out, it was a way of giving back.

It was my favorite program. Russell said afterward he had never before given such an open interview.

Celtics Diary

By now, the story has been told. When the younger guards—Jeff Malone, Rolando Blackman, or Ron Harper—take on the Celtics, there is as dominating a presence in the backcourt in Boston as any in the league. Even when Michael Jordan or Sidney Moncrief enter Boston.

Dennis Johnson emerged into prominence initially during the 1978 playoffs when he was the key figure in the Seattle SuperSonics' drive to 2nd place in the league. The following season, when the Sonics defeated the Bullets in a rematch, Johnson was Most Valuable Player in the finals. His career has been on an upward spiral since. All-NBA, 1981, All-Defense five times—and if individual honors for DJ have been shuttled aside somewhere because of league politics, in Boston, Dennis Johnson has been a critical player in two league championships. "The fact I was able to win three titles, and hopefully more, with two teams, is something I'm very proud of," says the veteran.

Dennis Johnson recorded some impressions of his role on the team and the Celtics early this year for *Celtics Pride*.

November 5th. Boston. We defeated the Indiana Pacers at home tonight, and I believe it was an important effort by our team. We needed to go out and play a solid two-way effort after losing the other night in Milwaukee. I think especially on the defensive end we proved we continue to have the proper intensity.

November 6th. Boston. We went through a brief practice today. There isn't too much we can do with the injuries we've had—what with Bill Walton, Scott Wedman, and Danny Ainge ailing. I've been playing with Sam Vincent in the starting backcourt, and now the team has brought Andre Turner in. It's easier for me, certainly than it is for a young player like Sam. I'm confident out there, experienced; they are facing new situations, I'm not taking them under my wing *per se*, but I am giving them a few pointers.

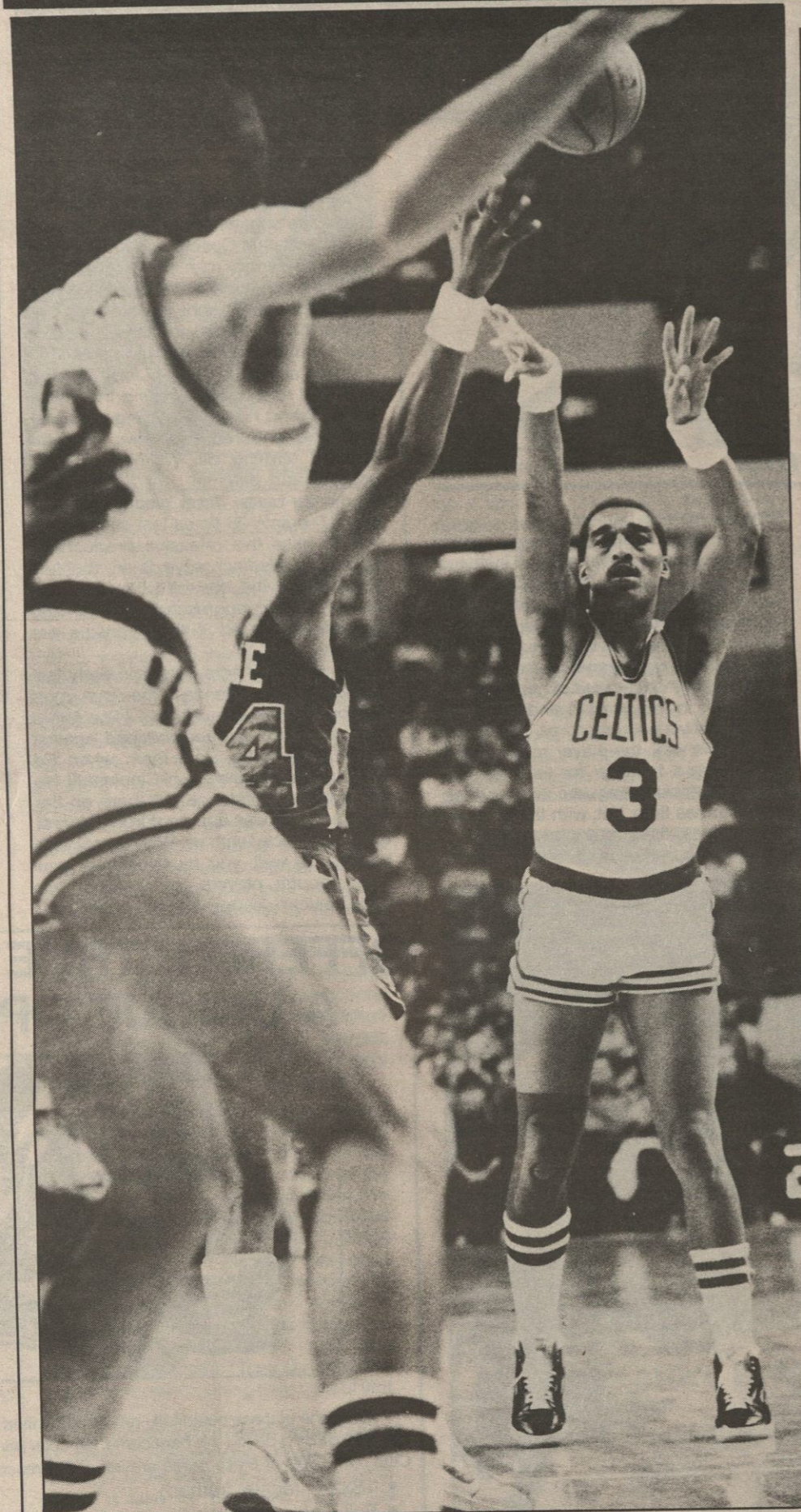
I think this should be qualified; but in certain instances, you let them mess up. Because every player makes errors, and the invaluable lesson goes beyond making this play or another play absolutely right.

The worst thing about being a professional athlete is that when you make a mistake, you make it in front of 12,000-15,000 people. Then the next day, 250,000 more read about it. A player must be able to manage the pressures mentally, if he is able to go on in this game at all.

November 8. Washington. We defeated the Bullets 88-86 and I hit the final shot. We struggled to gain a rhythm from the beginning tonight, and this has been a nagging problem. I believe we have an excellent chance at repeating, although we are not approaching our games this way. I don't think anybody knows why teams have failed to win in consecutive seasons. Our game has lacked something this season; we have not come out hard and fast from the beginning of games and this has made us wander around a little bit. The players will regard problems of repeating as secondary if we play better. And that means starting off better.

But I will state this. I want us to be the first one to repeat since 1969. I want us to be the last guys standing when the games

Dennis Johnson's Veteran Role



D.J. has a new approach to the game after 11 years.

are through. King of the Mountain after the struggle. It's very early in the season, but in the end, when every player in the league is tired and hurt, it becomes something of a survival contest.

November 9. Lexington. We practiced early today and I spent the rest of the day at home with my family, (wife) Donna and (son) Dwayne. We have moved to Lexington this year after living in the city for two

years. It's taken some time to get everything settled, and we're still living out of some boxes, but I guess that's to be expected.

We have temporarily adopted Massachusetts as our home, although we still plan to return home to California later. Unless a great job offer comes along after I'm through playing. We have left Dwayne in the same school for the time being,

hoping to change this next year. He still has the same friends and is familiar with his old school.

The idea here is that professional athletes are always moving, and that is generally considered part of the job for the player. But, if that athlete is traded, his family is traded, too. I knew Cedric Maxwell, Robert Parish, M.L. Carr, Jimmy Rodgers, Chris Ford when I came to Boston, either through meetings in the off-season or by playing against them. I was able to adjust easily here. But my wife and son had to meet new friends, learn differences about new people again. It is not always easy.

But I would not mind retiring when I am 35, 36, 37. I trust I am investing my money correctly and that it will allow me certain, respected freedoms. My folks have worked 25-30 years to earn a retirement and that is the accepted way. I deeply respect them and recognize how fortunate I've been in my profession. But early retirement from working is definitely a goal, although I still want to play indefinitely.

November 12th. Boston. Back home after a sluggish loss in New Jersey last night. I played fairly well, but the team isn't just right yet. The starters have been forced into extended minutes, and we're fatigued. I think you learn some things through 11 years in the league and I've accepted a veteran role and its responsibilities. I want to play as many minutes as possible (I love playing). But I want to be in top condition in the playoffs, too. The bench will have to help. Injuries haven't...

I think there is a major difference between playing in my 11th year and approaching the game as I did as a young player. Now I refine details. I am my hardest critic, and I want to contribute and it requires upgrading your performance. As a young player, you're more emotional and you do things on raw talent. But I suspect, for me, I began adopting this attitude when I was traded. It's like any businessman who's been relocated: he wants to become stronger in a new setting. That's why I fine-tune my game and work on the little things as the years go by.

I have had a long career and I'm proud of it. I've accomplished some things. And I still want to play; I'd be willing to play a role on a team late in my career if I felt I were contributing and if my individual game was still strong.

November 13th. Lexington. We defeated Milwaukee last night and practice was optional. Donna's been sick and I guess I need a day away, sometimes, too. We stayed home and worked on the house.

Tomorrow night, though, the road continues. We play Chicago and Detroit back-to-back this weekend. More probably than Sidney Moncrief, who I faced when we played Milwaukee last night, Michael Jordan is the best I've played against. I'm always ready to do as well as I can, especially on the defensive end. But Jordan is able to score even when you've seemed to stop him. He doesn't become discouraged at all. Sometimes this is an area a veteran needs to consistently work on: staying resilient on defense, even against Jordan, who is able to elevate a home crowd. In a veteran role, you're aware of the details, however subtle.





K.C.s Corner

Injuries and Andre Turner

Throughout the Pre-Season and the off-season, we insisted the questions asked of us, whether we would be able to repeat, were premature. The regular season is demanding, mentally and physically. There are unforeseen circumstances along every NBA road which alter your thinking and determine the moves you must make.

From the beginning of Training Camp, we have been fighting an injury problem. Bill Walton broke his finger, and then was out with an ankle injury. Scott Wedman was slow to heal after off-season foot surgery. Danny Ainge went down in the Pre-Season game against Houston, sus-

taining a serious back injury.

I have been looking at heavy minutes from the starters; in this isolated instance, the statistics do not lie. Without Danny, our foundation players, Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish, and Dennis Johnson were into the forties in minutes played over the first eight games. I have saved time by bringing them out of games with a minute left in the quarter, and using the interval between quarters as "free" rest time. In this way, the player may actually be catching a breather for ten real minutes, while missing only one, two, or three game minutes time. Yet, with the intensity of the games, the starters have fatigued. I'm not in the business of fooling myself.

We have started Sam Vincent in place of Danny, as suggested by Chris Ford, one of our Assistant Coaches. He has helped the team in this role: pushing the ball, gaining experience on defense, beginning to hit the open shot consistently. He knows there are four veterans out there to carry him in troublesome moments. This decision allows us to keep Jerry Sichting in a relief role. Jerry is getting the critical minutes, and I believe, playing very well. We have endured problems with the rotation. Missing Bill Walton hurts our passing and defense over a consistent 48-minute basis. Scott Wedman scored over 10 points 28 times last season and we do miss this offensive productivity. Danny, as Wedman says, is an absolute "hound" on the basketball court. Constantly running, aggressive; your thinking has to be altered if these assets are absent.

We brought Andre Turner in early last week to aid our offense in the open court and our defensive quickness. I like Andre (our scout, Ed Badger coached against Andre's Memphis State team when Ed was coaching University of Cincinnati). He has a quiet confidence out there on the court and this was apparent from the first day he practiced with us. With ten players healthy, as well, you must be sure you have enough players for practice. I've been basically happy with the guard play

but Andre gives us insurance at this position, and another dimension.

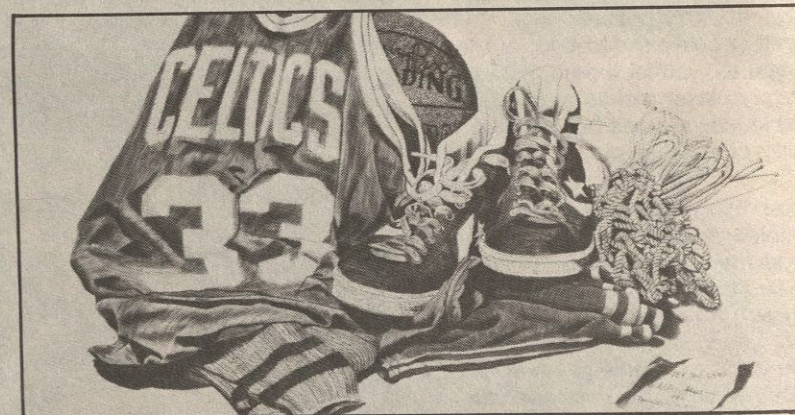
The opening of the season went as we had expected. In the opener we overwhelmed the Bullets because of some outstanding defense. Against Milwaukee the following night, the minutes became a problem, and we were defeated, 111-105. Back home against Indiana three days later we put together a solid two-way effort. We went right after it from the beginning of the game and I believe this game indicates to all of us that our nucleus remains intact, if somewhat changed by the injuries to the ballclub.

As the games continued into the following week some of our output lagged. There were problems on the offensive end against Washington (an 88-86 win) and New Jersey (114-110 defeat). With injuries, two alternatives should be expected: sometimes teams pull together to compensate for players missing. Or negatively, teams may rush things, try to do it all at once and lack patience. Execution has hurt us badly. Effort hasn't however.

So the injury list has had an impact at this early stage. Jimmy Rodgers, for example, decided to insert Fred Roberts into the game against New Jersey last Tuesday (I was home in Boston with the flu), moving Kevin McHale to center, after Robert Parish fouled out. A difficult choice because we have been pleased with Greg Kite. Similarly, I decided to try and ice the Indiana game on November 5th early, playing Larry Bird at guard instead of substituting Rick Carlisle at that point. The rotation is irregular.

The league is improved and there are teams—Atlanta, Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit—hunting for the champion nightly. To respond to that challenge, we must continually be looking to improve as a basketball team.

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Danny's a "hound" on the court.

Supreme Court

By Tony Cooper

Quick, name the only player whose position isn't forward, guard or center. It's baby-sitter.

The guy in question here is Golden State Warrior veteran **Greg Ballard**. Warrior Coach **George Karl** has enlisted Ballard to keep an eye on **Chris Washburn**, the wayward rookie frontcourter out of North Carolina State.

You'll remember Washburn as the fellow who had a couple of legal flaps at NC State and attended three high schools before that. His past is checkered at best.

There's no doubt Washburn is an immense talent, but he may even be a bigger head case, one reason why some teams shied away from him at the draft table. And he was up to his old tricks recently, when he showed up late for a game against the Denver Nuggets, then 90 minutes late to a two-hour practice the next day. The day after that, he was MIA from a weight conditioning program, earning him a second fine.

That's when Karl decided to do something drastic. At first, Karl asked for volunteers, but no one would do it. Then Ballard came forward.

How does this set up work? "Anything you ask him to do, he's got to do," Karl said. "If you want him to go get a Coke, he does it. If you want your shoes shined, he does it. We've assigned Greg to act as a big brother to Washburn."

Ballard's first job, though, is to make sure Washburn shows up on time for the mundane stuff—like games. Anytime Washburn is late, both he and Ballard will be fined.

Karl, former boss of the Cleveland Cavaliers, is to be applauded for his I-won't-take-any-of-this-nonsense approach. And not only has he been hitting Washburn in the pocketbook, but in the playing time department as well. Washburn started the first two games of the season, but after his transgressions, barely played at all. Karl is showing him who's running the show.

"They were teaching me that I wasn't the star of the team and that I could be sat down," Washburn said. "I respect that."

It's pretty hard to get much respect for Washburn. This guy is living proof that you can be 21 years old, 6-11, 255 pounds and not even close to being grown up.

"We're professionals," Karl said. "You're paid as an adult so act like an adult. We'll tell you what time to be there and you be there."

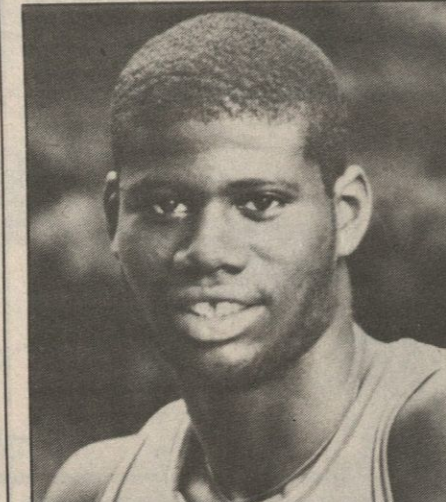
Said Ballard: "Chris has a lot of talent. As long as he can take care of his responsibility, he'll be all right."

But will Ballard be all right? A classy veteran who began his career with the Washington Bullets in 1977-78, Ballard has enough on his mind as it is. Not only does he have roundball to concern him, he's got a family of his own.

"I've already got three kids," said Ballard. "One's five months, another six and the oldest 13. His name's Larry and he's 5-5. Now I've got another one. He's 21 and 6-11."

And this newest member of the Ballard clan will need more attention and discipline than any of the others.

"I want to go out and prove that I didn't



Chris Washburn: Growing Pains!

come out of school too early," Washburn said. "But No. 1, I want to show that I can stay out of trouble."

Hey, if ya showed up for the games and practices on time, that would be a good start. . .

Remember all the hype that **Patrick Ewing** would lead the Knicks from the dregs to the Promised Land? Well it hasn't happened yet, and it's not going to happen this season, either. The Knicks, who are bad enough with Ewing on the floor, have had to contend with Ewing's gimpy knees. Whether he'll play or not is almost a game-to-game proposition.

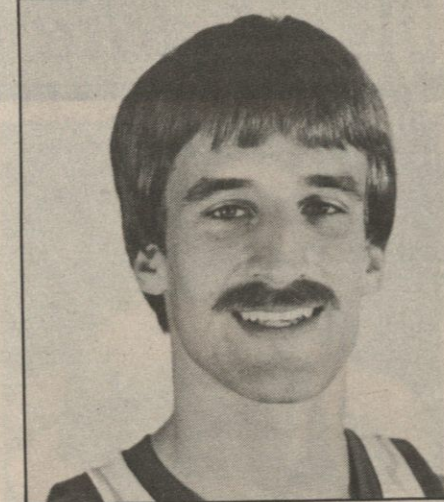
"You can't have an era unless you get attendance," Coach **Hubie Brown** said. "You have to show up for the games. And then you have to play for your maximum potential in those games to have an era."

With the Knicks winning a minimum number of games, rumor has it Brown's job is on the line. It's said ex-Spur honcho **Cotton Fitzsimmons** may come to Madison Square Garden. Ex-Net, Nugget, UCLA and current Kansas Coach **Larry Brown** is also a possible successor. . .

L.A. Clipper **Michael Cage**, whose NBA career has been at best dormant, broke through with 18 rebounds in the Clips win over Houston. "Outside of the dance floor, that is the most active I've seen Michael Cage," teammate **Marques Johnson** said. . . **World B. Free** is World B. Unemployed. The Cavaliers have even given hotshot rookie **Ron Harper** his locker, and Free's Cavalier career is apparently over. "He's being mistreated after saving the franchise," said Ron Grinker, Free's agent. "They should make a statement relinquishing their right of first refusal. . ."

Don't expect rookie coach **Doug Collins** to order championship rings for his Chicago Bulls today or tomorrow. What would it take for the Bulls to win the Central Division title? "God's divine hand. We'd need **Michael Landon** from *Highway to Heaven* coaching this team. But the Bulls had won five of their first seven games, perhaps proving **Michael Jordan** is preferable to Michael Landon. . ."

Speaking of divine hands, there are those who think the Lakers' days as a super team are over, considering that unlikely folks such as **Frank Brickowski** and **Mike Smirek** dot their roster. Not so, says **Pat Riley**. "This team has been on



Bill Hanzlik: Space Cadet

top a long time. Now we're being measured up and put down. People say we're over the hill. I think that has sobered us up. I still think we're a tight team, but now we're a veteran team that has sobered. We're no longer brash and young and swashbuckling. We're more mature now. We've gone past that stage. . ."

Figure this out: After guard **Leon Wood** was traded to the New Jersey Nets, broadcaster **Steve Albert** introduced himself. Wood's response "Are you any relation to your brother Marv?"

Celtics' Coach K.C. on Milwaukee's

newly-acquired center, **Jack Sikma**: "He's like Master Card; he gives them all the possibilities." Maybe, but don't be surprised if it's the Atlanta Hawks, not the Bucks, who challenge the C's for the Eastern Conference crown, folks. . . **Bullet Jay Murphy** entered his first game with his new team with his jersey on backwards. No, he wasn't nervous. . .

Sidney Green, a bust with the Chicago Bulls, then traded to the Detroit Pistons, said "My actions are going to speak for themselves," before the two teams met recently. They must have spoken in sign language—Green started the game and wound up with two points and one rebound. Meanwhile his opposite number, **Charles Oakley**, had 20 points and 19 rebounds. . .

Denver's **Doug Moe** and Utah's **Frank Layden**, a couple of wisecracks from Brooklyn, haven't lost their touch. When asked if 6-7 **Bill Hanzlik** would get lost out there while having to play center (due to Nugget injuries) Moe said "I don't have to worry about him getting lost, because he's already lost to begin with. He's a space cadet anyway. He won't know the difference anyway." Layden: "I'm from New York where if you fall down in the street, they pick you up by your wallet."

Final note on Washburn: He's got a custom made Mercedes with a custom Rolls Royce interior and 450 watt stereo system. All for a mere \$115,000. But it sounds as if the guy ought to get a tricycle instead. . .



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Eddie Gnillooly

Rigors of the NBA

Fame is fleeting, especially in professional sports. After a review of the 23 NBA rosters, it makes sense that the Players Association has never attempted to negotiate a longevity clause in their contract with the league. There are too few players who are fortunate to survive the rigors of the NBA for a long period of time.

Of the 276 players on the NBA rosters this year, only 47 first round draft choices with six or more years in the league are

currently active, the oldest of course being Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who, as Lew Alcindor, was the No. 1 draft choice (by Milwaukee) in 1969. He is in his 17th season.

Next in line is Julius (Dr. J.) Erving, drafted in 1972 by Milwaukee, a year after he left school (University of Massachusetts) to sign with Virginia of the now defunct ABA. Erving remained in the ABA for five seasons—two with Virginia and three with the Nets before signing with Philadelphia for the 1976-77 season. Including his time in the ABA, Dr. J. is in his 15th season.



Bill Walton: Class of '74.

Not surprisingly, the only two active first round choices from the 1974 draft are members of the Celtics—Bill Walton selected by Portland and Scott Wedman by Kansas City (now Sacramento). Other notables from that year's crop are Bobby Jones, whose number is being retired by Philadelphia; Tom McMillen, recently elected to Congress; and Marvin Barnes of Providence College.

The 1975 draft, which produced some first round choices who distinguished themselves for a period of time in the NBA such as David Thompson, John Lucas, Lionel Hollins, Kevin Grevey and Marvin Webster, still claims four active players in Alvin Adams, Darryl Dawkins, Rich Kelley and Dan Roundfield.

Robert Parish and Adrian Dantley, now of the Pistons, are the only surviving first round choices from the 1976 class, which was not what the scouts acclaim as a bumper crop. Only Quinn Buckner and Mitch Kupchak established themselves from that year.

Milwaukee and the Lakers each had three first round choices in the 1977 and five of them are among the 12 players still

active from that year. Milwaukee selected Kent Benson, Marques Johnson and Ernie Grunfeld while the Lakers opted for Norm Nixon, Kenny Carr and Brad Davis. Grunfeld retired this year.

Others from that class who continue to perform in the NBA are Cedric Maxwell, Walt Davis, Wayne "Tree" Rollins, Bernard King, Jack Sikma, Otis Birdsong, and Greg Ballard.

Larry Bird was the third player selected in the 1978 draft because he had announced his intention to remain at Indiana State for another year. The Celtics selected him as a red-shirt. Portland had the first choice and selected Mychal Thompson of Minnesota and Indiana with the second pick named Rick Robey of Kentucky as its choice.

Bird's class, even though he remained in college, can only claim six active first round choices on the NBA rosters. They are Bird and Thompson along with Reggie Theus, Mike Mitchell, Purvis Short and David Corzine.

In Bird's rookie season, 1979, the first round choices were plentiful and 12 of them still maintain roster spots in the NBA. The standouts are Magic Johnson, Sidney Moncrief, Calvin Natt, Vin Johnson, Jim Paxson and Bill Cartwright. Others are David Greenwood, Phil Hubbard, Cliff Robinson, Kyle Macy, James Bailey and Dudley Bradley.

Kevin McHale is the most prominent of the 1980 first round draft choices. Of the 23 players selected that year only 10 remain in the NBA. They are McHale, Kiki Vandeweghe, Darrell Griffith, Andrew Toney, Mike Woodson, Mike O'Koren, Joe Barry Carroll, Bill Hanzlik, Larry Drew, and Mike Gminski.

The Celtics current roster includes eight first round draft choices. Bird, McHale, Greg Kite and Sam Vincent were selected by the Celtics. Parish was No. 1 by Golden State, Walton by Portland, Wedman by Kansas City and David Thirdkill by Phoenix. Danny Ainge and Rick Carlisle were Celts choices. Ainge in the second round and Carlisle in the third.

Dennis Johnson was the second round choice of Seattle and Fred Roberts also was a second rounder tabbed by Milwaukee. Jerry Sichting was a fourth rounder by Golden State.

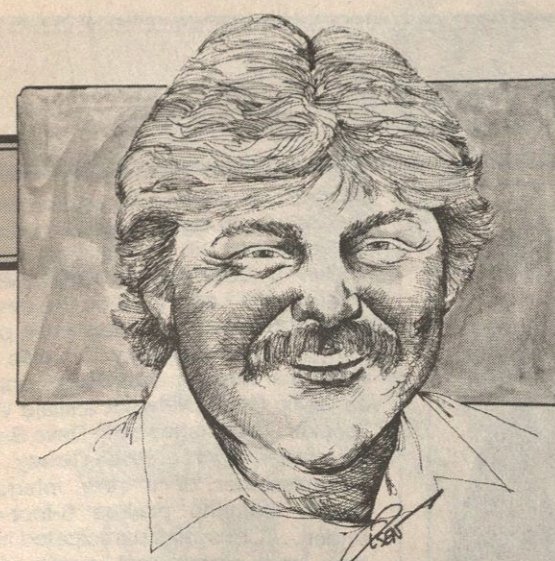
In addition to Sichting, only a handful of lower draft choices have been able to make a career in the NBA. Sedale Threatt was a sixth round choice of Philadelphia, while Alan Leavell was grabbed in the fifth round by Houston.

Fourth round selections who have established themselves are James Donaldson by Seattle, Mark Eaton by Utah; Mickey Johnson by Portland, Lewis Lloyd by Golden State and Rory Sparrow by New Jersey.

Bill Laimbeer was a third round pick by Cleveland while Kurt Rambis was a New York Knicks third rounder.

Three real vets who have overcome the wear and tear are Caldwell Jones, Artis Gilmore and George Johnson. Gilmore is 37; Jones, 36 while the greybeard is Johnson at 38, four months younger than Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

In analyzing the drafts of past years and the staying power and talent of the players, the 1970 class still ranks among the best. That year Dave Cowens, Pete Maravich, Bob Lanier, Rudy Tomjanovich, Spencer Haywood, Geoff Petrie, Jim McMillan, Tiny Archibald, and Calvin Murphy were the headliners.



Glenn Ordway

The Crystal Ball Predicts

For the last decade, the Midwest Division has been aptly nicknamed the "Mistake Division" and rightfully so... But laugh no more. With Houston coming off a final two finish and a much improved Dallas and Utah, the Midwest may finally top the Atlantic Division as Basketball's best. On the other hand, the Pacific Division may own the title "CBA's Best."

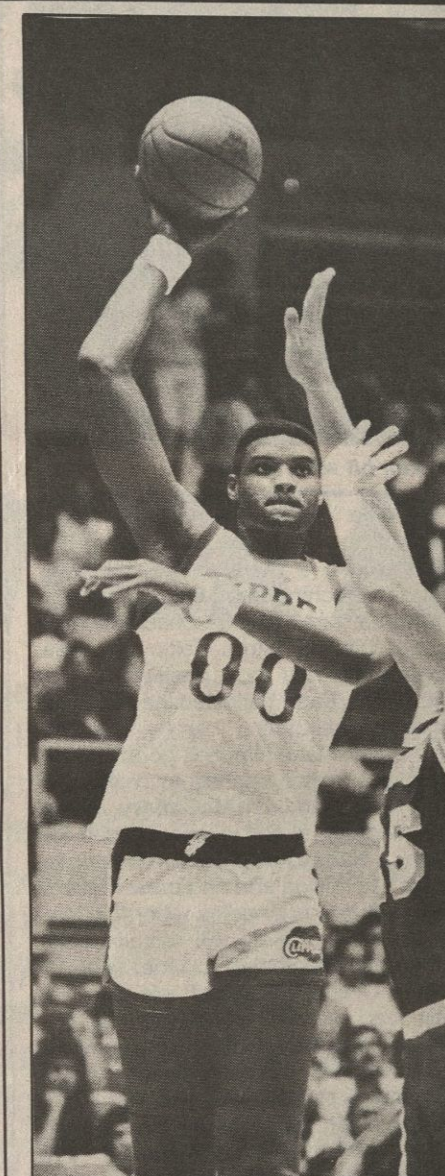
MIDWEST DIVISION

HOUSTON... Akeem Olajuwon is rapidly working his way to the head of the class of NBA centers. He is the best offensive rebounder and may be the most devastating inside scorer in the game. Add the fact that he is learning how to pass and play defense and you have the ingredients for a dominant power. Now if only Mr. Ralph would display the same intensity then and only then would you look at this team as having a legitimate shot at denying the Celtics a back to back championship. The improvement of Jim Peterson and Mitchell Wiggins does though make this a better ballclub.

DALLAS... My choice to be one of the most improved teams in the league. They are loaded with frontcourt depth. I know they don't have a dominant big guy in James Donaldson, but Dick Motta's system doesn't require one. They do possess a ton of scoring and rebounding forwards with Mark Aguirre, Sam Perkins, Detlef Schrempf and highly touted rookie Roy Tarpley. Derek Harper has gained considerable control in his role as the point but if he fails, there's always the steady Brad Davis sitting in the wings. They now have that same luxury at the other guard spot with Al Wood backing up the dangerous Rolando Blackman. In an effort to improve a weak defense, Motta has this second unit pressing at all times.

DENVER... The loss of Calvin Natt again is a severe blow. But let's face it... The Nuggets will do what they always do... run you to death. And in that mile-high atmosphere at the McNichols Arena, they own a clear advantage. Whether they improve or not may be based on the contributions of second year player Blair Rasmussen and rookie Mark Alarie.

UTAH... Well Frank Layden got his wish... A season without his chief headache, Adrian Dantley. But now the pressure is on to replace the key point production that Dantley provided. Darrell Griffith is back at full force... that's a big plus. Karl Malone spent the summer learning how to shoot free throws. That



Benoit Benjamin: Key to the Clippers.



Akeem Olajuwon: Head of the Class.

will change the way teams defend him. And Kelly Tripucka will give the Jazz additional perimeter help. A Dantley-less season may mean more ball movement and more contributors in the offense and ultimately a better team.

SACRAMENTO... The cheerleading capitol of the world will waste its time lauding the latest count on the applause meter, but unless the newly acquired Derek Smith has a strong injury free season, you can forget about peaking the victory meter. Still questionable at center with 6'10" Lasalle Thompson and slightly under 7' Joe Kleine. The always unpredictable Reggie Theus seems more content on passing the ball than shooting it... (at least this week) that could be a plus.

SAN ANTONIO... Johnny Moore who

spent the past year battling a bout with desert fever is back and apparently playing at peak. The Spurs have three very capable guards in Moore, Alvin Robertson and rookie Johnny Dawkins. But their success lies totally in the middle. Artis Gilmore is a year older and there's always been a question of his motivation.

PACIFIC DIVISION

LOS ANGELES LAKERS... They can phone it in. Despite the fact that this may be the weakest Lakers team in years, the Pacific Division offers very little challenge for Pat Riley's crew. Now if the Lakers were playing in the Midwest Division, Kareem is back and yes a year older. Eventually it's got to catch up to him. They are loaded with small forwards (James Worthy, A.C. Green, Billy Thompson) but they lack much rebounding strength. And in a day and age when many teams are experimenting with the twin tower concept, the Lakers may be reverting in the other direction. They better shoot at about 60% every night or it could be a long season.

GOLDEN STATE... I must admit until Sam Bowie went down, I had picked Portland for second. But his loss re-directs the power out there. George Karl is the new boss in the Bay. Though his effectiveness in Cleveland wore out after just two seasons in Billy Martin-like style, there's no denying that he is one of the young and upcoming super-coaches in the NBA. His patience will really be tested in his dealings with the highly talented and highly irresponsible rookie Chris Washburn. His dealings with Joe Barry Carroll won't be a day at the beach either. He's got the talent (Purvis Short, Chris Mullin, Larry Smith)... It's a matter of getting them to play together.

PHOENIX... The early loss of rookie William Bedford due to a knee injury sets this team back a step or two. But when he returns, we should see the emergence of another twin-tower team in the league.

PORTLAND

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS... So goes Benoit Benjamin. So goes the Clippers hopes. One game Benjamin looks like a world beater. The next he looks like a beaten world (and I do mean World B. Free). An off season softball injury has shelved Norm Nixon for the year. Probably a very long year for the Clippers.

SEATTLE... The luxury of being in the Pacific Division is that you can have a disastrous season and still finish third. But on paper, it's hard to fathom the Sonics finishing anywhere but last. After trading away their number one pick to Boston last year, they have adapted a new plan... acquire all the picks available and build for the future because the present doesn't exist.

Bird Voted Most Admired in Sports.

Every fan has his favorite athlete, that one performer admired more than any other. But have you ever wondered which athlete is most admired by other athletes? Steve Rudman, columnist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, did. And to find out the answer he queried 100 top athletes—all of them were pros, All-Stars, or leading money winners.

The winner? None other than 3-time MVP Larry Bird

of the Boston Celtics. Bird was named most admired athlete by 22 of the superstars. Three others came close—Jack Nicklaus, 19 votes; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 16; and Walter Payton, 15. According to Rudman, no other athlete received more than a handful of votes, but other NBA players mentioned were Julius Erving, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Kevin McHale and Spud Webb.

Among those voting for Bird were Wayne Gretzky, Walter Payton ("What

makes him great is that he does all the little things that most don't look for,"), Mark Gastineau, Mario Lemieux, Mike Singletary, Pat Bradley ("Bird is without a doubt—something else. I don't think there has ever been a player like him—his vision, his mental alertness. I just don't think there is anyone who can match him,"), and Ron Duguay.

Perhaps Howie Long of the Los Angeles Raiders summed it up best, saying "I think that Larry Bird is wonderful."

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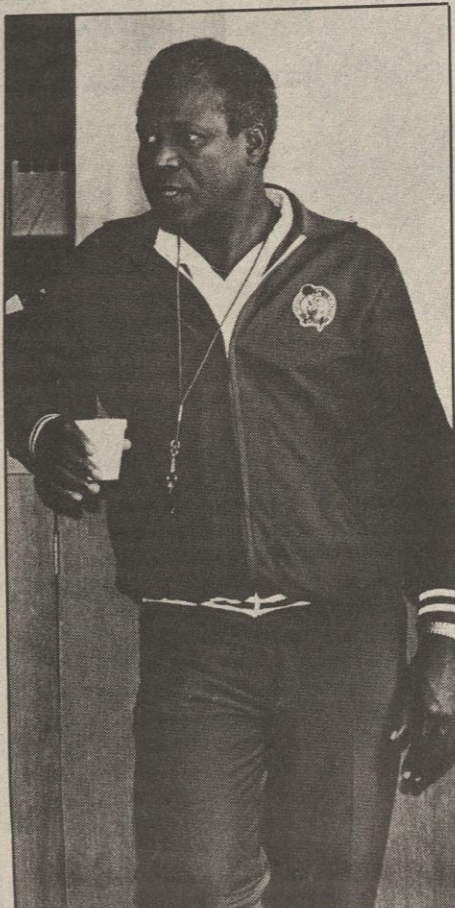
Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

Whereabouts. K.C. Jones, author, promoted his book, *Rebound*, an autobiography and narrative of the 1985-86 championship season, at Lauriat's Bookstore in Braintree, November 8th... K.C., **Cris Ford**, and **Jimmy Rodgers** took part in the National Basketball Association's drug campaign, wearing the button "Don't Foul Out" on their lapels... **Jerry Sichting** drew upon his admiration for Indiana boyhood folk hero, **Rick Mount**, when choosing his number in high school, number 10... **Bruce Hurst**, Red Sox hurler featured in a recent issue of *Celtics Pride* and hero of the Red Sox' near miss in the World Series, was a frequent visitor at Celtics practices at Hellenic College in Brookline... Newest Celtic **Andre Turner** was staying at a local hotel near the Hellenic College practice sight... He and his wife were dinner guests of Jerry and Joni Sichting in the couple's first week in Boston... Larry Miller Productions filmed the raising of the 1986 championship banner before the Celtics played the Washington Bullets, October 31st. The film was produced for the Museum of Science's new Mugar Omni Theater, featuring a 76 foot (in diameter) screen and a 27,000 watt, 84 speaker sound system... Local media began singing the

praises of folk hero broadcaster, **Johnny Most**. The *Boston Globe* asked why Johnny had not received a championship ring, and The *Boston Herald* promoted Most's colleague in the broadcasts and *Celtics Pride* columnist **Glenn Ordway's** drive to have Most elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield as a contributor.

Ramsay on Walton. Dr. Jack Ramsay, who coached **Bill Walton** and the Portland Trail Blazers to one of the most esthetically pleasing NBA titles in 1976-77, remains one of the redhead's greatest supporters, despite their stormy parting of the ways in 1978. "I was delighted for Bill (when he won the team championship with the Celtics last season). I still have a distinct image of Bill waiting to go into the game during the 6th (and final) game. He was poised on the bench, like a runner preparing for a 100 yard dash..." The best player Dr. Jack ever coached—he entered the 1986-87 campaign with Indiana as winner of 785 career contests—"Bill Walton," says the Doctor, definitively... The Celtics signed guard Turner, and the rookie immediately went through the practice drills with Green Team members **Greg Kite**, **David Thirdkill**, **Fred Roberts**, and **Rick Carlisle**. Speculation centered on Turner's possible competition with **Sam Vincent** for



K.C. was hit with the flu.

playing time. Yet the two were becoming friends off the court... Scenes from the drama: During a pre-season contest, a scout was watching **Larry Bird**, marveling at the great one's team consciousness. Bird was playing with a Celtic who was reportedly fighting for a position on the team. "Watch Larry," advised the scout, as Bird set up the Celtic, "(Larry's) trying to help the guy, make him look good, (so he will have a better chance to make the team)"... Bird and **Jim McCaffery**, rookie camp hopeful, filmed a commercial together... **Nancy Parish** was in Boston to see the flag raising and ring presentation. She is still in Los Angeles recording her jazz album and likely will remain there through the beginning of the year... WLVI-TV Channel 56, which televises the Celtic road games, held a party for the team and several sponsors last Monday... **Bill Russell**, The Celtic who initiated the string of sixteen titles, was on hand opening night, telecasting the game for WTBS. "We got the rings through the mail," laughed Russell with irony, alluding to the first championship ring Russell earned as a player in 1956-57. **K.C. Jones** concurred. "Didn't we get them in Cracker Jacks boxes?" he recalled facetiously... *Sport Magazine's* special issue heralding the top forty performers in sport during the magazine's existence included a tribute to **Red Auerbach**, written by the poet, Donald Hall... A business cable television news service was on hand taping segments of the Celtic-Indiana November 5th game to use on a report concerning the sale of stock to the public beginning next month... **Ed Badger**, scout, returned to Cincinnati after staying with the team through opening night...

The Pan Am Shuttle distributed a

promotional advertising section featuring the Celtics on flights beginning the week of November 9th... The eight-page advertising supplement displayed **Bill Walton** and **Larry Bird** on the cover in a color photo shot by *Celtics Pride* photographer **Steve Lipofsky**... Celtic Public Relations Director **Jeff Twiss** appeared on Celtic Radio Network affiliate WGIR's "Locker Room" show with Dave Baker on November 10th... **Bob Cousy** is the Commissioner of a new international league featuring players 6-foot-4 and under... Cousy has participated in meetings and promotional events for the league since March... Newest Celtic **Andre Turner** is interested in swimming, baseball, and listening to music, including the artists Patti Labelle and Maze... Turner is the first player to officially have played with both **Magic Johnson** and **Larry Bird**... Johnson has been Turner's playing model up to this point in "The Little General's" career... The Celtics, injured and groping for some consistency in their substitution rotation, nevertheless battled to keep their home winning streak, including Hartford, Connecticut alive... The streak was at 40 as the Celtics hosted the Milwaukee Bucks, November 12...

Rick Carlisle refutes the idea that Danny Ainge's absence has hindered the guard's effectiveness off the bench... "No. I'm just trying to go out and play. Sometimes you're more aggressive than other times. But I'm just trying to go out and be a better player every time out..." The Virginia graduate, a piano player after basketball hours, concluded, "I just try to play the game. Not let the game play me..." **Red Auerbach**, on the eve of the opening of the season, appeared on the Today Show with **Bryant Gumbel**... Red, against the flow, picked Atlanta and Detroit as contenders for supremacy in the Central Division of the league... Auerbach's pick to win it all was Boston... The Celtics record heading into games last week was 313-100... Captain **Larry Bird** was the team's player spokesman at the official ring ceremony and flag raising ceremony, October 31... "The excitement within us is at a very high level," stated the Captain, ever the master of understanding the temperament of fans. "Stay behind us, and we'll be back here next year (raising another championship flag)"... **K.C. Jones** missed the New Jersey road contest November 11th with the flu. It was the first game he missed as coach since taking the reins over from Bill Fitch in 1983-84... The Celtics were featured in the December issue of the travel magazine, *New England Getaways*... General Manager **Jan Volk** was a guest on WHDH's Sports Huddle program... **Carolyn Clifford**, who has been dating **Sam Vincent** from Michigan, possibly will intern at a local television station this winter... The Celtics celebrated **Bill Walton's** birthday at a surprise, impromptu gathering at a shootaround, November 5th, at Hellenic College... Walton was the recipient of a "Happy Birthday" song that night during the remnants of the Celtics' easy win over the Pacers... One of **Scott Wedman's** favorite restaurants: The Five Season's restaurant in Jamaica Plains on the edge of the city.



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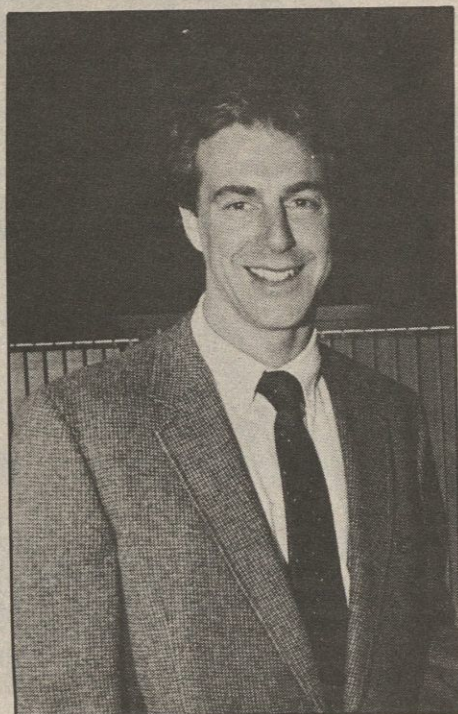
Credibility

I believe the National Basketball Association has reached a rich level of respectability and at a curious time in the league's history. Julius Erving announced his retirement during the Philadelphia 76ers' opening game. Bobby Jones retired last season, the Philadelphia-Celtics rivalry has been forever changed, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar appears to be yielding his pivot supremacy in the West, to Akeem Olajuwon. If these key figures are departing, leaving Larry Bird and the Boston Celtics as apparently the

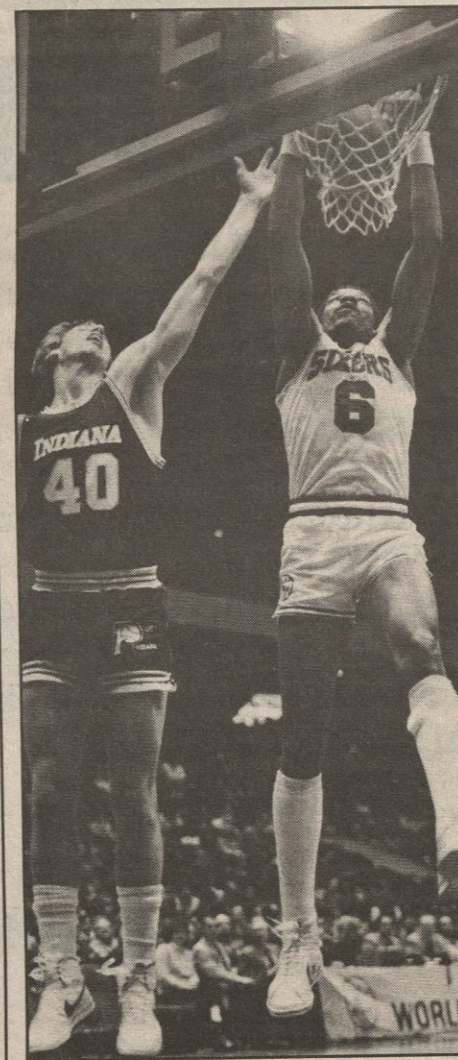
only marketing tool for the NBA, why has the league become Major League?

There are three factors contributing to the league's success. They are obvious and related: Commissioner David Stern, the changing perception of the league by the players, and by the fans.

In David Stern's era as commissioner of the league, the NBA has undertaken a major change in its marketing approach. Formerly, teams were marketed as promotional tools for the league. It represented a clear continuous line from the past but it limited the impact the league was having on its audience. Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Milwaukee



Dave Cowens: Still involved in Boston.



Julius Erving: Stepping down.

were the teams which carried the league competitively for years and the NBA envisioned their excellence as its strength.

But Mr. Stern saw it differently, I think, and began energizing images of individual players. Now you hear "Michael Jordan," as much as the Celtics' dominance. Or the dynamic duo of Spud Webb and Dominique Wilkens as frequently as Magic Johnson's genius in the open court. This approach has helped the league commercially and it has distributed a feeling of confidence among the men who play in the league. I think you'll see several very good basketball teams throughout the league this season and this is a reason.

On the borderline between ownership and player, Stern's (and Jan Volk's) advocacy of the salary cap has encouraged a collaborative interest in the welfare of the league. Yes, the upcoming collective bargaining sessions may be difficult. But there is a shared sense on both sides to reach a meeting of the minds each side can live with.

From the players' perspective, I recall an informal meeting several men had during the off-season a few years ago. Bob Lanier, Fred Brown, Mike Bantom, Maurice Lucas, myself, and representative Larry Fleisher met and discussed methods the players could use to encourage a different outlook on the part of the performers. This, in order to create a better image to fans of the league. And I think we are seeing the results of this type of thinking now, from the players up, and from the league hierarchy down. For example, the "Don't Foul Out" campaign of the league's coaches. For example, Johnson's public service announcement insisting young people prevent drunk driving. And on a more esthetic level, the quick videotapes which illustrate the team-oriented and graceful talent of players throughout the league ("Fantastic"). The NBA is projecting an image of individual and community conscience. It is representative of the way that the league is at least attempting to cope with some of the drug problems within their own house. Credibility is furthered.

In 1986, the National Basketball Association is a healthy league. Pride exists throughout: witness the Houston Rocket upset over perennial power Los Angeles in last season's playoffs (no fluke) and the exciting Final series between the Celtics and Rockets. The Big Four has been brought back to the pack; there are exciting challengers in Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Dallas, for example. I believe the Celtics will win again this year (it will need to be a mission). But it will be a hard-earned victory.

The fans enjoy and respect this type of play. They are seeing a league which is reaching out into the community and they are seeing increasingly competitive action. It's like any business: the NBA is servicing its clients. The businessmen and women sitting in the audience see this and are attracted to it. There is a quality product. The league is following through on its promises and is performing on a consistent basis—consequently, there is repeat business, i.e., increased attendance and popularity throughout the league.

The National Basketball Association's owners, players, and coaches understand not only their responsibility on the floor, but also in the community. Fans appreciate an Isiah Thomas involved in Chicago and Detroit, or a Dave Cowens and John Havlicek in Boston. The players are 'the thing'—and they are doing the right thing.

The Celtics utilized some impressive individual performances to ease into the familiar territory of first place last week. With chief Atlantic Division foe Philadelphia on an early West Coast swing, the Celtics bounced back from injuries, ejections, extended minutes, and periods of inattentive play to lead the pack. Forty-eight minute games were turned in by Kevin McHale, Larry Bird, and Dennis Johnson last week. Bird ranked fourth in the league in scoring (26.9), McHale sixth (26.4). Robert Parish was thirteenth at 20.8. Parish was fifth in the league in rebounding with 12.8, and Parish (2.8) and McHale (2.6) rank with the leaders in blocks. Johnson was seventh in the league in assists with 7.4.

Danny Ainge, Bill Walton, and Scott Wedman did not appear in any of the Celtics first eight games.

LARRY BIRD. Bird's scoring ability was very much in evidence, despite some misses against New Jersey (11-28 from the field) and an ejection against Milwaukee. Scored 38 in 32 blazing minutes against Indiana in 133-102 win. Led team comeback in third quarter against Washington. Ejected in Milwaukee game after disputing call with Billy Oakes. Shooting form, despite misses, never off; he scored 37 (10 assists, 5 rebounds, 2 blocks and steal) against Chicago and 26 with 10 rebounds against Detroit.

RICK CARLISLE. Those impressive minutes in the pre-season action seemed to be forgotten; partly because Coach Jones was ill for several games and Jimmy Rodgers may have felt added pressure to win. Did play twelve minutes against Pacers scoring 4 with 2 rebounds,

By the Numbers



Fred Roberts: Key Performance.

an assist and steal. Other extended action was against Bucks: 15 minutes, 4 points including a dead-on three point FG. Six minutes and field goal against Bulls.

DENNIS JOHNSON. Led team with game-winning shot in 88-86 victory over Washington November 7. That jumper supplemented 9 assists. Against Detroit Saturday, scored 19 points and added 11 assists. When Bird was ejected against Milwaukee, his entrance into game in 2nd quarter stabilized team. He scored 21 with 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals. Against Nets in losing effort scored season high of 26 points. Also had 9 rebounds and 8 assists. Played 48 minutes against Pistons.

GREG KITE. Extended minutes in two contests, versus Pacers November 5th and against Bucks, November 12th. Pulled down 7 rebounds in 11 minutes against Pacers. Two rebounds in 14 minutes against Bucks, but he, like others in that short-handed game, was a contributor in maintaining team intensity. Limited minutes in midwestern swing.

KEVIN MCMALE. After McHale personally turned the Chicago war into the Celtics victory column, rookie Bulls' Coach Doug Collins said to Bob Ryan of *The Boston Globe*, "I said before the game that McHale was the matchup for us. When push comes to shove at the end of the game, they're going inside. People say 'How are you going to defend it?' The answer is that's why he's averaging 27 points a game and making a million and a half a year." 48 minutes versus Nets, and 32 points, 14 rebounds, 4 blocks. 29 points, 10 rebounds versus Bucks; 32 points, 8 rebounds, 2 blocks in that Bulls' game. Tired some against Pistons next night, still scored 20.

ROBERT PARISH. By the time you read this, this major candidate for "Player of the Week" should have won it. His most dominating play as a Celtic last weekend. Kept ball in Celtic court against Bulls during Bird-Jordan shootout, McHale save by scoring 27, adding 18 rebounds, and making his only assist the key (104-96 feed to McHale) one of the game. The next night, a 34-point, 19-rebound, 9-assist, 5-block crusher in the Silverdome. "We are a different team when Robert is active," stated K.C. Jones. Added these performances: 11 points, 14 rebounds, 4 blocks against Malone and Bullets; 25 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals,

and 3 blocks against Bucks and Sikma. 27-37 from free throw line in this stretch, as well. Averaged 37 minutes.

FRED ROBERTS. His contribution to the victory over the Bucks is already a key moment of this basketball season. Played 34 minutes, including most of the game after Bird was ejected, and scored 23 points, with 12 rebounds, 6 assists, a steal and a block. He also had 7 turnovers, but this serves to reflect his all-out Phil Jackson type style. He shoots better from the outside, though, and is a workaholic at practice. He played fifteen minutes in Chicago the following game, and had more (dubious appearing) fouls than points, five to four. Seven points, 5 rebounds against Bullets; 3 points, 2 assists in seven minutes versus Pistons. His all-out style will help this team, especially producing points in the transition game, if everybody plays healthy this year.

JERRY SICHTING. Started the final three games last week, after closing the opening two contests of the year with second-year man Vincent starting. Has played well this season—his scoring off the ball-movement game against Detroit his best offensive effort of the year (16 points, 4 assists, 3 rebounds). His 9 assists against Bulls his Celtic high. Shot 5-11 against Bucks, adding 3 rebounds, 2 assists, and 2 steals. Will capably return to relief role when Ainge returns to starting role. Ainge played in his first regular season game, November 19th.

DAVID THIRDKILL. According to his college Coach, Dick Versace, now the Pistons' assistant, Thirdkill is an "intelligent athlete, who understands his role and a role's importance in winning team basketball. I honestly think David will play ten years in this league, Thirdkill waits, patiently, for his chance to play. Extended minutes in games against Indiana and Milwaukee. Against Pacers, shot 2-5 from field in 14 minutes, but had 4-8 free throws and 5 rebounds. Matched up effectively against rookie phenom Person. Later, facing Milwaukee, played 9 minutes, scored both field goal attempts and grabbed two rebounds.

ANDRE TURNER. The Little General. Played impressive minutes against Bucks in initial Celtic appearance. Boston Garden fans immediately reacted, immediate plus. Demonstrated skill and confidence. Entered fray with :06 remaining in first quarter and instantly made an assist in transition game. Rookie still learning the pro game and second team in two months, Lakers and Celtics, the best two teams in the league. Two points, a rebound, and an assist in 11 minutes.

SAM VINCENT. Last starting appearance against Nets: four points on 2-5 FG shooting in 17 minutes. Shot 5-26 as starter, 7-8 from Free Throw line, 12 rebounds, 12 assists, 4 steals, 5.4 ppg in 20 minutes per game. These are credible numbers, for a young player who had virtually no meaningful minutes his first season, therefore none for two years. Played off bench with Dennis Johnson in win over the Bucks and played well: 4 points in 14 minutes, 2 rebounds, and 3 steals, steals coming in 2nd quarter scrambling team rally. Limited minutes in midwestern swing.

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Celtics 88, Bullets 86

at Landover, Md.

BOSTON

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
Bird	43	14-28	3-5	1-8	4	32
McHale	42	9-14	2-4	1-9	3	20
Parish	43	5-12	1-2	4-14	0	11
Johnson	45	5-12	1-2	1-3	9	33
Vincent	20	2-2	3-4	0-0	1	7
Sichting	25	0-4	0-0	0-0	3	1
Roberts	16	3-5	1-2	2-5	2	7
Carlisle	6	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	0
Totals	240	38-79	11-19	9-40	25	88

FG% .481; FT% .579; Three-point goals: 1-5, 200 (Bird 1-3, D. Johnson 0-1, Sichting 0-1); Team rebounds: 13; Blocked: 13 (McHale 5, Parish 4, Bird 2, Sichting, Vincent); Turnovers: 15 (Parish 4, Bird 3, McHale 3, Vincent 2, D. Johnson, Roberts, Carlisle); Steals: 8 (Bird 3, Vincent 2, McHale, Parish, D. Johnson); Technical fouls: None; Illegal defense: 1.

WASHINGTON

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
Cattledge	31	3-7	3-4	3-9	0	1
Williams	21	2-6	0-0	1-2	2	1
M. Malone	43	4-17	8-10	5-12	2	16
Johnson	40	3-16	2-2	3-6	5	2
J. Malone	43	11-23	4-4	0-2	0	26
Roundfild	26	6-9	2-2	3-6	0	14
Cook	13	1-4	1-4	2-3	1	3
Bol	10	1-2	0-0	0-2	0	2
C. Jones	4	1-1	0-0	0-2	0	2
O'Koren	9	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2
Totals	240	33-87	20-26	17-45	12	77

FG% .379; FT% .769; Three-point goals: None; Team rebounds: 11; Blocked: 6 (M. Malone 3, C. Jones 2, Bol); Turnovers: 12 (M. Malone 4, F. Johnson 2, Roundfild 2, Cattledge, Williams, M. Malone, C. Jones); Steals: 11 (Cattledge 2, Williams 2, F. Johnson 2, Roundfild 2, M. Malone, J. Malone, Cook); Technical fouls: None; Illegal defense: 1.

Boston..... 13 22 29 24 = 88
Washington..... 25 21 17 23 = 86
A-19.375; T-2.10; Officials—Paul Milhalak, Jess Thompson.

Nets 114, Celtics 110

at E. Rutherford, N.J.

BOSTON

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
McHale	48	11-21	10-13	8-14	5	32
Bird	42	11-28	9-11	3-14	3	32
Parish	27	4-10	2-2	4-9	1	10
Johnson	45	10-27	6-7	2-9	8	26
Vincent	17	2-5	0-0	0-2	3	4
Sichting	31	2-3	0-0	0-0	2	4
Roberts	18	1-5	0-0	2-3	0	2
Carlisle	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Kite	0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0
Totals	240	41-99	27-33	20-52	26	110

FG% .414; FT% .818; Three-point goals: 1-7, 143 (Bird 1-4, McHale 0-1, Johnson 0-1, Roberts 0-1); Team rebounds: 5; Blocked shots: 8 (McHale 4, Parish 2, Kite, Johnson); Turnovers: 19 (Bird 8, Johnson 4, Vincent 2, McHale 2, Parish, Roberts, Sichting); Steals: 10 (Bird 4, McHale 2, Parish, Johnson, Vincent, Sichting); Technical fouls: McHale, 0:00, 4th; Bird, 2:49, 4th. Illegal defense: 1.

NEW JERSEY

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
Woolridge	40	6-16	4-8	2-7	1	16
Williams	40	6-15	4-5	3-16	4	16
Dawkins	23	5-6	4-5	1-4	1	14
Washington	31	6-10	2-3	0-1	5	14
Brown	23	1-7	0-0	0-0	2	2
Gminski	30	5-11	10-10	4-15	2	30
King	33	9-14	4-5	3-5	2	22
Wood	17	3-4	0-3	1-1	1	8
Turner	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2
Totals	240	42-84	28-37	14-49	18	114

FG% .500; FT% .757; Three-point goals: 2-3, 667 (Wood 2-3); Team rebounds: 8; Blocked shots: 3 (King, Williams, Washington); Turnovers: 20 (Williams 5, Washington 3, Brown 3, Gminski 3, King 2, Woolridge, Wood, Turner, Team); Steals: 11 (Washington 4, Williams 3, Woolridge, Brown, King, Wood); Technical fouls: Illegal defense, 10:50, 3d. Illegal defense: 1.

Boston..... 28 23 26 33 = 110
New Jersey..... 32 27 29 26 = 114
Attendance — 14,720; T-2:17.
Officials—Joe Crawford, Bennett Salvatore.

Celtics 124, Bucks 116

at Boston Garden

MILWAUKEE

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
Pressey	29	5-11	0-1	0-0	4	10
Cummings	41	7-18	2-6	4-11	3	16
Johnson	28	1-10	4-4	2-10	3	5
Moncrief	32	5-9	0-0	1-2	8	11
Hodges	24	5-13	0-0	4-4	2	11
Pierce	25	11-17	7-8	0-1	1	31
Skiles	17	2-9	1-2	1-2	1	6
Breuer	19	5-7	4-2	2-5	0	14
Bradley	15	3-4	1-1	0-3	0	9
Mokeski	10	1-3	0-0	0-2	0	2
Totals	240	45-101	19-26	14-40	21	116

FG% .446; FT% .731; Three-point goals: 7-11, 714 (Bradley 2-2, Pierce 2-4, Moncrief 1-1, Skiles 1-3, Hodges 1-4); Team rebounds: 9; Blocked shots: 1 (Cummings); Turnovers: 16 (Cummings 3, Skiles 3, Moncrief 3, Breuer 3, Skiles 2, Bradley 2); Steals: 11 (Cummings 3, Moncrief 2, Skiles 2, Bradley 2, Breuer, Mokeski); Technical fouls: Bradley 2, Breuer, Mokeski); Technical fouls: 1.

BOSTON

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
McHale	39	8-17	13-14	1-10	3	4
Bird	39	1-3	0-0	0-1	3	2
Parish	39	7-12	11-15	5-11	3	25
Johnson	31	8-13	5-5	0-5	3	21
Sichting	25	5-11	0-0	1-2	4	10
Roberts	34	8-11	7-10	3-12	6	23
Carlisle	15	1-4	1-2	0-0	0	4
Turner	11	1-3	0-0	0-1	1	2
Kite	14	1-3	2-2	0-2	1	0
Thirdkill	9	2-2	0-0	0-2	0	4
Totals	240	42-81	39-48	10-49	18	124

FG% .519; FT% .813; Three-point goals: 1-3, 333 (Carlisle 1-1, Roberts 0-1, Turner 0-1); Team rebounds: 13; Blocked shots: 5 (Parish 3, Roberts, McHale); Turnovers: 21 (Roberts 7, Johnson 3, Turner 3, McHale 2, Parish 2, Sichting, Carlisle, Vincent, Kite); Steals: 11 (Vincent 3, Parish 3, Johnson 2, Sichting 2, Roberts); Technical fouls: Bird 2, 2:52, 1st (ejected); assistant coach Ford, 8:22, 3rd; McHale, 5:37, 4th.

Boston..... 29 29 16 42 = 116
Milwaukee..... 33 32 35 24 = 124

Celtics 110, Bulls 98

at Chicago

BOSTON

Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
McHale	39	12-16	8-8	3-8	1	32
Bird	48	13-25	11-12	1-5	10	4
Parish	43	11-23	5-6	7-18	1	27
Johnson	46	2-4	0-0	0-3	5	4
Sichting	45	2-5	0-0	1-4	9	4
Carlisle	6	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	2
Roberts	12	2-4	0-1	0-1	2	4
Thirdkill	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	240	43-79	24-27	12-40	28	110

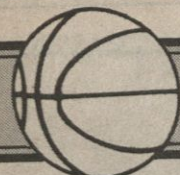
FG% .544; FT% .889; Three-point goals: 0-5, 000 (Bird 0-4, Carlisle 0-1); Team rebounds: 6; Blocked: 5 (McHale 2, Bird 2, Parish); Turnovers: 19 (Bird 6, McHale 3, Parish 3, Roberts 3, Carlisle 2, Johnson, Sichting); Steals: 5 (Parish 2, Bird, Johnson, Sichting); Technical fouls: Illegal defense 2, 6:00 3d; 3:34 3d; Illegal defense: 1.

CHICAGO

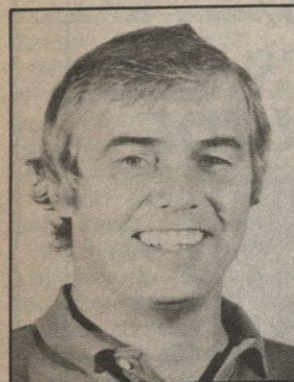
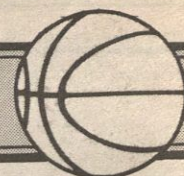
Min.	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	F	Pts.
Oakley	42	7-16	6-11	4-13	1	20
Cureton	31	3-10	0-0	4-5	0	6
Walters	22	1-2	0-0	3-6	1	2
Cotter	17	0-3	0-0	0-3	1	0
Jordan	41	17-33	13-14	2-5	1	48
Corzine	16	1-4	0-0	4-6	3	2
Paxson	35	7-11	2-2	0-2	5	16
Turner	9	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	0
Sellers	26	2-7	0-0	4-7	3	4
Brown	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	240	38-89	21-27	21-44	17	98

FG% .427; FT% .778; Three-point goals: 1-3, 333 (Jordan 1-1, Paxson 0-1, Oakley 0-1); Team rebounds: 6; Blocked: 4 (Walters 2, Cureton, Jordan); Turnovers: 16 (Oakley 5, Cotter 2, Corzine 2, Sellers, Cureton, team); Steals: 9 (Sellers 3, Jordan 2, Cotter 2, Cureton, Walters); Technical fouls: Jordan, 8:27 3d; Illegal defense: 1.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE



Roundball Spoken Here



Doug Moe

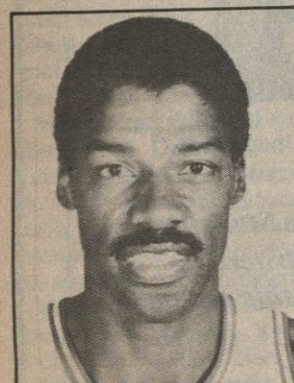
Doug Moe on his regular season games against the Celtics: "They are the least important games on the schedule. So what if we lose to them? Everybody else will, too."

Jerry Sichting on the difference between starting as a Pacer and coming off the bench in Boston: "I know what K.C. wants me to do. The hardest thing was getting away from habits, the instinctive things that I was used to doing automatically; the things I had drilled into me to do in Indiana."

"I had a lot more responsibility with Indiana. I was a starter and you get more respect in that role. The refs let you get away with a little more than if you're coming off the bench."



Jerry Sichting



Julius Erving

Julius Erving on turning down the possibility of playing the role of Amazing Grace in the film, *Amazing Grace and Chuck*: "If I had to be a Celtic to be in the movie, I'd just as soon not be in a movie. Anyway, they had their chance. I came out (of the University of Massachusetts) back in the days of the territorial draft. Red Auerbach said I was too skinny. It's become a long-standing thing between us. I'll say, 'Red, am I still too skinny?' He'll say, 'Don't be a wise guy.'"

Bill Walton, while injured, listened to a Johnny Most broadcast: "I listened to Johnny some without watching the TV, and I really thought the (opposing team) Milwaukee Bucks were going to be arrested for assault and battery. It was a real charge listening to Johnny. He's got a great, unique sense of the game."



Bill Walton

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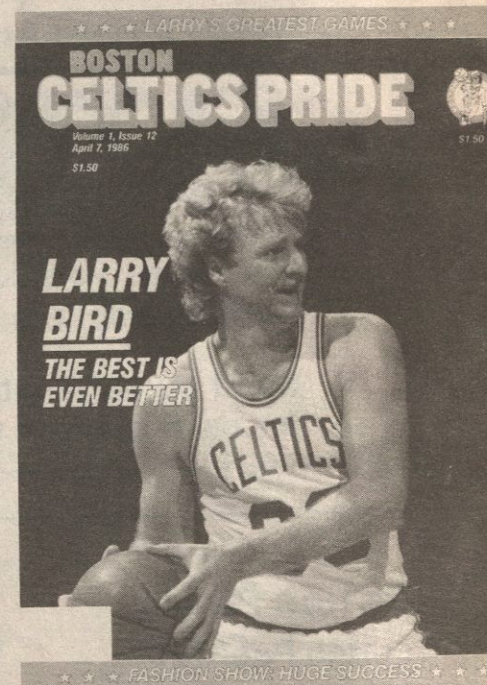
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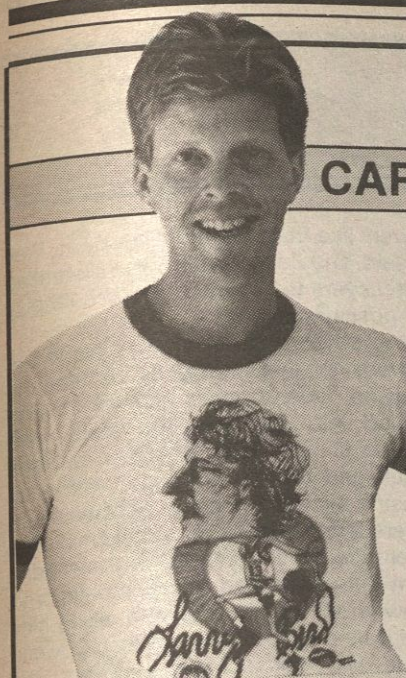
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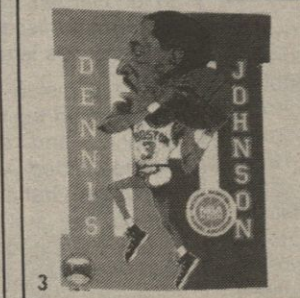
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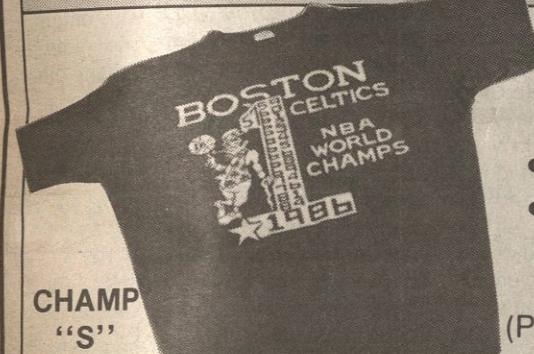


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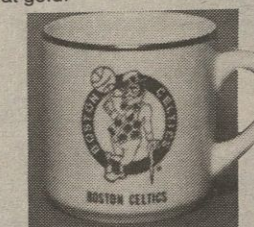
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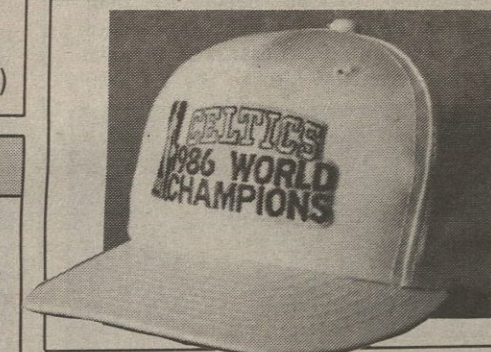


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Celtics Classics

It is ironic that Bob Ryan, the central chronicler of Celtic stories declares that "the four most important Celtics in history are Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, John Havlicek, and Larry Bird." Ryan, the columnist and basketball writer for *The Boston Globe*, bases his opinion on the facts that Cousy initiated excellence for the Celtics, Russell erected the dynasty, Havlicek provided continuity between the sixties and the potentially arid seventies, and Bird is the best player who ever pulled on a basketball uniform period.

The irony persists because the arrival of Ryan on the beat roughly coincided with the entrance of Dave Cowens into Boston. Cowens was the team's first draft choice in 1970. His selection was the cornerstone of five drafts, beginning in 1968, which would in 1974 bring the championship back to Boston. The Celtics defeated Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and the Milwaukee Bucks that season in the best defensive series in the history of the post-Russell game. 1968 first rounder Don Chaney paired with 1969 first rounder Jo Jo White in the backcourt, Cowens was the pivot, and 1972 first rounder Paul Westphal was a key figure off the bench on that team, especially in the final game of that championship series.

Writer Ryan covered that team coining Coach Tom Heinsohn's group "The New Celtics." And Dave Cowens symbolized its speed, intensity, determination—and ultimately, its popularity. Until Cowen's best years, the Celtics average attendance climbed over 10,000 two times in 26 years. Dave Cowens was a 6-8½ inch center who paralleled Larry Bird's excellence, but at the center position. Cowens wasn't the ballhandler Bird is: Cowens shot superbly, crashed the boards, con-

Drafting Dave Cowens

tested all the important issues for the Celtics, and won two championships. He also was a coach here and integral when the team turned matters around definitively in 1979-80, Bird's first season. Celtics fans embraced Cowens, a maverick off the court, and began coming out to the Garden, translating the attendance figures into fiscal solvency for the team. Cowens was largely responsible for this.

The decision to draft Dave Cowens represented the conclusion of months of scouting and debating among Celtic President Red Auerbach, Heinsohn, and Scout Mal Graham. This draft came at the end of the first year after Bill Russell suddenly retired in the summer of 1969; Red Auerbach argued later that had he known Russell was retiring (the latter did so after the 1969 draft), he would have been prepared to take a frontcourt player in the draft previous to the Cowens' selection. White was chosen instead, a fortuitous stroke of fortune but the short term absence of a quality center sent the Celtics to a 34-48 record and out of the post-season playoffs for the first time in the Auerbach era.

The collegiate season again produced a UCLA championship, the school's fifth straight. And it was accomplished without dominating center play with the advancement of Abdul-Jabbar into the professional ranks the previous season. The best players in the draft included Bob Lanier of St. Bonaventure, Pete Maravich of LSU, Sam Lacey of New Mexico State, Calvin

Murphy of Niagara, Jim McMillian of Columbia, George Johnson of Stephen Austin, Rudy Tomjanovich of Michigan, and Tiny Archibald of Texas-El Paso. These players reached "best" status either through college play, post-season all-star games (for example, Archibald soared to prominence in the Hawaii all-star game, scoring a record 51 in one game), or later, in the NBA. The best big men were Lanier, Lacey, and the lesser known Cowens. Cowens had played at Florida State under Hugh Durham, a coach Auerbach respects and later considered hiring after Cowens himself resigned the mentor position in 1979. But Florida State was on probation that season and played in obscurity. Legend had it Cowen's duels with Artis Gilmore of Jacksonville were classics: Cowen's teams defeated the heralded Jacksonville team three times in the two players' matchups in three seasons, with Cowens outrunning the 7-2 Gilmore, in epic, powerful duels in rebounding action.

The Celtics had the fourth choice in the draft that season, and three interesting anecdotes depict the scenario. Auerbach, wavering slightly when the Celtics' selection finally came that draft day, finally decided to rely heavily on Graham's advice: select Cowens. Auerbach had seen the player on several occasions, and sensing the direction of the era, felt himself that Cowens could play a major role in the Celtic frontcourt. The times were characterized by Abdul-Jabbar's unique talent within a tall body; yet,

players like Elvin Hayes, Willis Reed, Wes Unseld, and Zelmo Beaty were illustrating that players 6-8 through 6-10 could play the position capably.

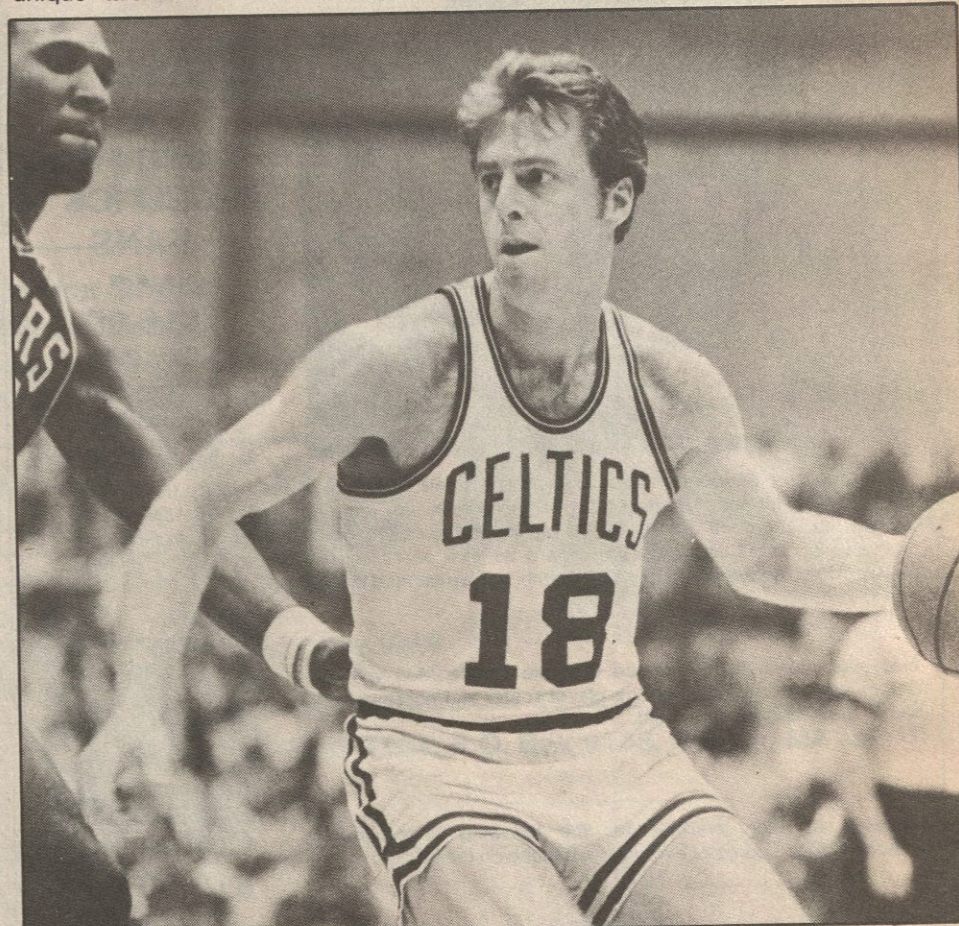
Red traveled to Kentucky, then, to see Cowens one last time but by that time, the Cowens "secret" was uncovered. Red walked into the gym and there were several scouts. The NBA men sat and talked and the game began. With each passing minute, Auerbach became deeply persuaded that Cowens could make the difference for the Celtics. But he didn't want his colleagues and competitors to know what his instincts were telling him. Red waited for his chance. When Cowens made two consecutive turnovers, the dynamic Celtic raised up from his chair. "This guy can't play!" Auerbach roared. With that statement—he lied—Red looked at the rest of the scouts and quickly departed.

Of course, on draft day he chose Cowens. A footnote to the tale involved Bob Cousy, who was coaching Cincinnati. Cousy was drafting directly behind Red and Cousy was not fooled. Cowens was his man as well. Awaiting Auerbach's choice, Cousy sensed the inevitable. Red was going to take the sensational Cowens. And Cousy was left with enigmatic Sam Lacey, dominating one night but lacking competitive fire too many others.

Cowens averaged 18.0 ppg in a superlative 11-year career including one troublesome season in Milwaukee in 1982-83. He won the Most Valuable Player award in the league in 1972-73 after winning Rookie honors in 1970-71. He was center on the 1974 and 1976 Celtic champions, and MVP of the 1973 All-Star Game. Cowens was interviewed in *Celtics Pride*, November 3rd.



Dave scrutinized his 1st contract.



Cowens: Center of Attention.



DECEMBER

HOME AND AWAY SCHEDULE...

Home Games

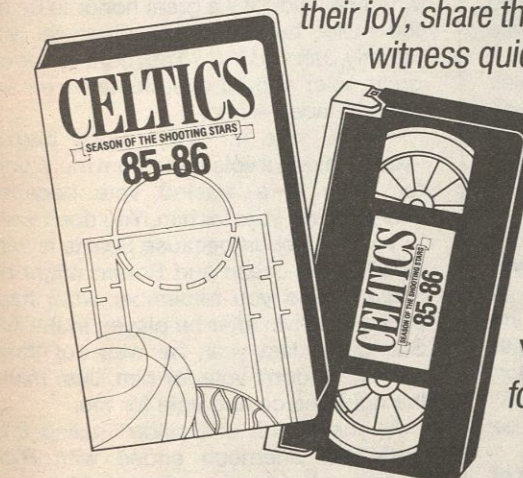
BOSTON CELTICS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 WASHINGTON BULLETS AT HARTFORD 7:30	3 DENVER NUGGETS 7:30	4	5 PHILADELPHIA 76ers 7:30	6 CLEVELAND CAVALIERS 8:00
7	8	9	10 NEW JERSEY NETS 7:30	11	12 LOS ANGELES LAKERS 8:00	13 WASHINGTON BULLETS 7:30
14	15	16 NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS 7:30	17 INDIANA PACERS 7:30	18	19 PHILADELPHIA 76ers 7:30	20 MILWAUKEE BUCKS 8:00
21	22	23	24	25	26 PHOENIX SUNS 8:00	27 LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS 7:30
28	29 SACRAMENTO KINGS 7:30	30 SEATTLE SUPERSONICS 7:30	31			

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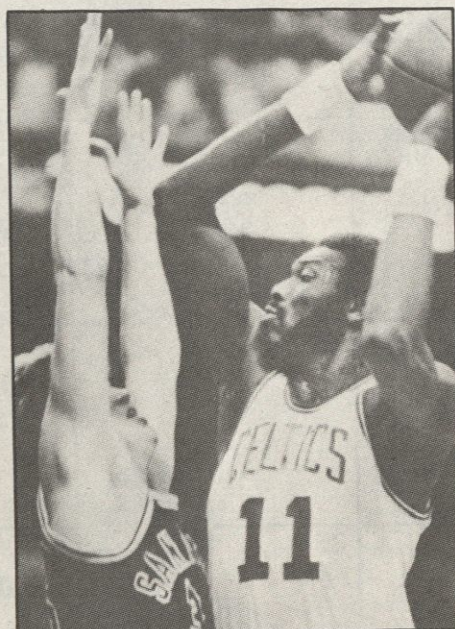
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Celtics Greats

Ongoing Odyssey of Bob McAdoo



Bob's brushing up on his Italian.

effective because of personal problems) for the prime choices in the upcoming draft. Overlooking the New York skyline in February, Brown exchanged the future, for a fling at past glory.

Bob McAdoo played out his stay in the United States and is now playing in Italy. He contributed late in his career as a role player on the NBA championship team in Los Angeles in 1982, his best perform-

ance as a team-oriented performer, when he averaged 16.7 ppg as the Lakers defeated the Philadelphia 76ers. Many thought he would be named Most Valuable player in the series. In 1985, McAdoo again played on the NBA champion Lakers, but by then, he was being phased out by that team. Contract terms and age had caught up with this player and he became a *cause celebre* in his final NBA Final. Red Auerbach growled that McAdoo was playing for a new contract, a belated and incorrect place for a salary drive. McAdoo wouldn't deny he desperately wanted to be retained by the Lakers. But winning the team championship was of uppermost importance at that time. Pat Riley, Lakers Coach, continued to favor McAdoo publicly, telling *Los Angeles Times* writer, Thomas Bonk, that "McAdoo was a key figure." This statement, after the Celtics had hung their memorable 148-114 defeat on the Lakers in Game One of the 1985 Finals.

The following season, and McAdoo's final NBA year, began with the player on the sidelines, out of the league, as he had been in 1980 after he had difficulties coming to terms with a shambles of a Pistons' team. McAdoo had traveled a complete cycle: he had come into the league as a hardship in 1972 from the University of North Carolina after a junior college career. He had been shipped to New York after his superior career in Buffalo in 1977, because the bankrupt

Braves couldn't afford to carry his Madison Avenue-type contract. He had been cut adrift by the Lakers after the LA club defeated the Celtics. But soon, McAdoo was picked up by the 76ers, much to the chagrin of Moses Malone.

"We don't need him," said Malone flatly. Malone and Matt Goukas, Coach of the 76ers, nearly came to blows in Oakland during a game, a feud engendered by the emotions brought out by the acquisition of McAdoo.

"I played individually throughout much of my career," said McAdoo. "But in the end, I was concerned about the welfare of the team."

"Winning (a championship) ring was the whole show for me."

When the Sixers made a futile drive toward the championship in the latter stages of the 1986 year, McAdoo became a professional conscience for a young team (Charles Barkley, etc.).

"The way we're playing," McAdoo remarked as the Sixers struggled through a 6-8 March, "we will never make a serious run. Players here have only individual goals on their minds."

McAdoo's option was not renewed by the 76ers this season and he went quietly to Italy. His final scoring average was 22.1 through his fourteen year NBA career. He has played in Italy since the middle of the year.

"I still want to play," he said upon leaving. "I've done the things I set out to do as an NBA player."

"This was the best opportunity for me at this time. There really was no other real choice."

All Star Luncheon Embarks with a Splash

By Jim Rucidlo

You could say this year's Miller Lite/NBA All-Star Voting program embarked with a splash. Or was this a preview of a 1980's version of McHale's Navy?

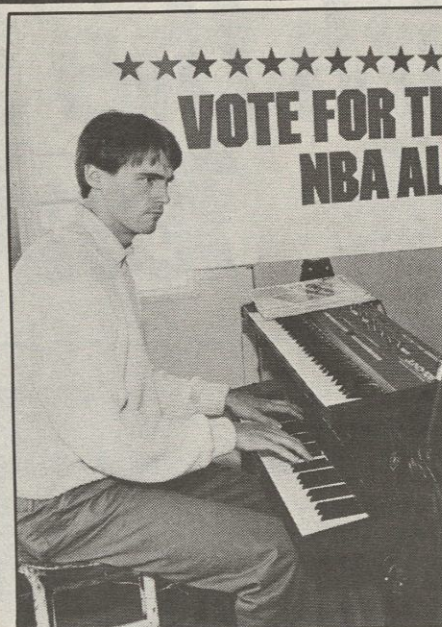
When the Celtics and coaching staff took to the sea along with media representatives and other guests about the "Spirit of Boston" for a unique luncheon that included a tour of Boston Harbor, the 1987 Miller Lite/NBA All-Star Voting program earnestly began.

Highlights of the luncheon-cruise included a knowledgeable tourguide in Captain Chris Hendricks, a brief-and-to-the-point speeches by Emcee Tommy Heinsohn, a six-time NBA All-Star selectee himself, Celtics General Manager Jan Volk, Alex Fotiades, vice president of Burke Distributing Corporation, Miller Brewing Company representative Bill Turner, and Celtics Coach K.C. Jones.

The theme of this year's luncheon was the role the media must play to encourage fan participation in the voting process.

Heinsohn, a CBS color commentator and analyst, urged Boston fans to become more aggressive in this year's voting to assist the five Celtics players in being selected for the All-Star game in Seattle, February 8, 1987.

"Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge deserve to be in the All-Star game," Heinsohn said, "and it requires your effort to accomplish this. Other teams create a real political environment to get their



Rick got an assist on piano.

players elected. On the other hand, Boston has been conservative, they're not super aggressive and the Celtics have always wanted it that way.

The color commentator for Celtics home games on Sports Channel also noted how other teams use a more commercial approach to soliciting votes for their players. "Who wouldn't sign a ballot for a pretty girl," he asked. "In Boston you have to go out of your way to

vote for a Celtics player.

"To compensate for this, the media has to play their role in getting fans to aggressively vote. All five Celtic players deserve to be in this game and it's got to become an issue."

Celtics GM Volk said he was disappointed last year when the coaches overlooked Dennis Johnson when they filled the final seven slots on the East squad. "The vote can be taken out of the coaches' hands," he said, "if the Boston fans make a strong effort to vote this year."

Reflecting from a different point of view, K.C. Jones the four-time NBA All-Star coach said, "Coaching the All-Star game is pure relaxation - you just sit there. You spend time working on a play in practice and it looks great. But in the game it doesn't look the same. Instead of the play you worked on, during the game you hear, 'just give me the ball and I'll get this game over with.' Players come into this game with a tremendous amount of pride."

Pride was the word Alex Fotiades of Burke Distributing Corporation, sponsors of the All-Star luncheon for the fourth consecutive year and the balloting at Boston Garden, used to sum up the Randolph distributor's relationship with the Celtics. "Although our participation has been minimal," Fotiades said, downplaying Burke's role, "we are proud to be associated with the Celtics."

Entering their sixth year as sponsors of the Miller Lite/NBA All-Star Voting program,

Miller Brewing Company spokesman Bill Turner introduced a new twist to the program that last year saw a record 3,000,000 votes cast nationally.

This year for the first time, fans who are unable to attend games can pick up ballots at package stores and other locations and these votes can be registered by calling a toll-free number. "This allows more fans to be directly involved with the voting program," Turner said.

He added that ballots are available at all NBA arenas from November 3 through January 16. The phone-in ballot program starts in December.

Danny Ainge, speaking for the players, ended the luncheon on a humorous note when he said, "It's a great honor to be on the ballot but I have to disagree with Tommy, Jan and K.C." The room suddenly grew quiet and all eyes focused on the straight-faced Ainge.

"If you vote for D.J.," Ainge began, "you're taking a vote away from me. A vote for Larry is a wasted vote because everyone will vote for him. You don't want to vote for Robert because Seattle is very close to the ocean and Robert might be seasick. And you remember what happened to Kevin after he played in the All-Star game last year, he was out three weeks, so don't vote for him. Just make the right choice and vote for me."

As the "Spirit of Boston" pulled into dock, the afternoon ended with Rick Carlisle playing the piano while K.C. Jones sang "You Are So Beautiful."



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